LETTERS TO A SOLDIER

By

MEADE LAYNE, M. A.

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Talk of the Times

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PREFACE

In presenting *"LETTERS TO A SOLDIER"* in its new Form, no pretense is made of trying to make it an exclusive Wartime book, but rather to make it available in convenient form to all those who need just such a presentation to help those who have loved ones in the Service of their country and elsewhere.

These letters are written on the level of Occult knowledge and theory, and the author has refrained from any reference to Religious authority. In other words, it is a simplified statement of important psychic and spiritistic knowledge and facts.

Anyone who has a boy or girl in the Service should, by all means, have a copy of *"Letters to a Soldier"* for their own reference, as well as an additional copy for *"him"* or *"her"*. DEATH is a very real thing in a Foxhole, and these letters can be of great help to *"him"* or *"her"*, as the case may be.

Printing under Wartime restrictions is quite an undertaking in itself. Had this book been printed in pre-war days, it would have perhaps 2½ times as many pages in it, but this is not permissible today. However, nothing has been left out of the original manuscript in this present edition.

Might we suggest that you do not attempt to read this clear through at one sitting. Take it easy, read it very *SLOWLY*, think it through *CAREFULLY*, and it will be a great help to you and yours.

"Talk of the Times"
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SPECIAL NOTICE:- The series of articles now appearing in one of the National Spiritualist publications under this same title *"LETTERS TO A SOLDIER"*, *are being written by an entirely different author, and are therefore in no way connected with this publication* which antedates it both in NAME and MATERIAL by 2 years.

LETTERS TO A SOLDIER

BY

N. MEADE LAYNE, M.A.

(A FATHER WRITES TO HIS SON, BUT HIS WORDS MIGHT BE THOSE OF ANY FATHER OR MOTHER OR LOVED ONE, WHO KNOWS SOMETHING OF THE TRUTH OF THE FACTS WHICH ARE HERE DESCRIBED.)

Published by

"Talk of the Times"

P.O. Box 128 SAN DIEGO 4, Calif.

FIRST LETTER

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TO MY WELL-LOVED SOLDIER, FAR AWAY BUT ALWAYS NEAR TO US:

YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY FOR A LONG TIME NOW, OR AT LEAST SO IT SEEMS TO US HERE AT HOME, WHO ARE ALWAYS WAITING AND WATCHING FOR YOUR LETTERS. WHEN THEY DO NOT COME, OF COURSE, WE ARE ANXIOUS ABOUT YOU, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND WE REALIZE THAT YOUR LIFE IS A VERY BUSY ONE, AND LAID IN NEW PLACES, AND THAT WRITING MUST OFTEN BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU. WE KNOW HOW YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO AND ALL YOUR PLANS CHANGED BY THIS WAR, AND THAT OUR OWN SHARE IN IT IS NOTHING BY COMPARISON. OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU CONTINUALLY, BUT ALL OF US MUST CARRY ON AS BEST WE CAN, UNTIL THIS BAD BUSINESS IS OVER AND YOU ARE SAFELY HOME AGAIN.

AND AS I THINK YOU PROBABLY REALIZE, MY OWN GREAT CONCERN HAS NOT BEEN SIMPLY ON THE SCORE OF DANGER, OR THE RISK TO YOUR OWN LIFE. IT HAS BEEN ALSO FOR THE EFFECTS OF THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE ON YOUR MIND AND CHARACTER. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE FOR IT TO DEGRADE AND BRUTALIZE YOU, OR LEAVE YOU CYNICAL AND HARD AND VIOLENT. BUT IT CAN ALSO GIVE YOU KNOWLEDGE, AND WISDOM, AND SELF-CONTROL, AND STRENGTH OF MIND AND BODY FOR ALL YOUR LIFE TO COME. THAT IS TRUE, OF COURSE, OF MANY EXPERIENCES OF ORDINARY LIFE ALSO; IT IS ONLY THAT WAR IS MORE STRANGE AND HARD AND DANGEROUS, AND FILLED WITH PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. BUT ITS PARTICULAR EFFECT ON YOU WILL DEPEND ON THE KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE, ON WHAT IS ALREADY IN YOUR OWN MIND AND CHARACTER.

YOUR OFFICERS WILL, OR SHOULD DO ALL THEY CAN TO HELP YOU, IN ORDER BOTH TO PROTECT YOU AND TO MAKE YOU AN EFFICIENT SOLDIER. YOUR FRIENDS AND COMPANIONS WILL HELP TO CARRY YOU THROUGH MANY A CRISIS, AND LIGHTEN YOUR BURDENS AND SHARE YOUR DANGERS. BUT THE KIND OF MAN YOU ARE WHEN THIS WAR IS OVER DEPENDS ON YOURSELF, ON THE WAY YOU REACT TO YOUR EXPERIENCES, AND WHAT YOU LEARN FROM THEM, AND THE USE YOU MAKE OF THIS KNOWLEDGE AFTERWARD.

PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY THAT YOUR FINAL RESOURCE IS NOT IN YOURSELF AT ALL, BUT IN YOUR SELF; THAT IS TO SAY, ON THE INMOST CENTRAL YOU, OR THE HIGHEST OR DEEPEST PART OF YOUR NATURE. MOST OF US REALIZE, IF WE STOP TO THINK ABOUT IT, THAT THERE IS SUCH A SELF IN EACH OF US, AND THAT IT IS SOMEHOW SUPERIOR TO THE WEAKNESS OF THE BODY AND THE FOOLISHNESS OF OUR ORDINARY THINKING. IT KNOWS QUITE ACCURATELY WHETHER WE ARE DOING RIGHT OR WRONG, OR MAKING OUR BEST EFFORT, AND WHAT IS GOOD FOR US AND WHAT IS BAD. THE TROUBLE IS THAT WE SELDOM LISTEN TO IT OR TRY TO CULTIVATE ITS ACQUAINTANCE.

YOU PROBABLY HAVE HEARD ALL YOUR LIFE THAT A MAN HAS TO DEPEND ON HIMSELF, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN MUCH AS IT IS

COMMONLY EXPRESSED. IF A MAN IS TIRED AND DISCOURAGED AND DEFEATED AND ILL, IT IS SHEER FOOLISHNESS TO TELL HIM TO DEPEND ON THE SELF THAT IS FEELING THAT WAY. IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE THIS SEPARATION, AND TELL HIM THERE IS A SELF WHICH IS UNDEFEATED AND STRONG AND WISE; THAT THIS IS THE SELF HE MUST AND CAN DEPEND ON. I ASSURE YOU THIS IS GOOD SOUND PSYCHOLOGY, AND AN INTENSELY PRACTICAL MATTER AS WELL.

NOW, THE PHYSICAL HARDSHIPS AND INJURIES OF WAR ARE OFTEN VERY BAD INDEED, BUT I REPEAT THAT INJURY TO THE MIND AND CHARACTER, OR TO WHAT PEOPLE CALL THE SOUL MAY BE EVEN WORSE. OF THE TWO EVILS IT IS BETTER TO BE CRIPPLED IN BODY THAN IN THE SOUL, AND THE FORMER IS OFTEN HEALED MORE EASILY THAN THE LATTER. THE TRAINING AND DISCIPLINE OF THE SERVICE WILL DO MUCH TO PROTECT YOUR BODY, BUT THE FINAL CARE OF YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS AND CHARACTER DEPENDS ON THE YOU WITHIN, AND ON HOW FAR YOU WILL TRY TO LISTEN AND UNDERSTAND AND OBEY WHAT IT TELLS YOU. IT IS THE WISEST AND DEEPEST PART OF YOUR BEING; SOMETIMES IT IS A SENSE OF HONOR OR DUTY, OR CONSCIENCE, OR ONLY A DEEP INSTINCT, AND WORKS OF GENIUS BELONG TO IT ALSO, AND THE LOVE OF BEAUTY, AND EVERYTHING ELSE WHICH IS BEST IN YOU.

YOU CANNOT CONTROL THE RISKS OF BATTLE, NOR, FOR THAT MATTER, THOSE OF ORDINARY LIFE, BUT THE EFFECTS OF THESE AND ALL OTHER EXPERIENCES ON YOUR MIND AND CHARACTER ARE LARGELY IN YOUR OWN HANDS. SO TOO WITH THE TEACHINGS EVEN OF THE BEST AND WISEST OF MEN, OR OF ANY SACRED BOOK; THEY MUST BE RECEIVED, AND UNDERSTOOD IN SOME MEASURE, AND FIND SOME RESPONSE IN YOUR INMOST NATURE, BEFORE THEY CAN BE OF REAL USE TO YOU. BUT IT IS THIS HIDDEN AND WISE YOU WHICH RESPONDS AND UNDERSTANDS, AND CONSTANTLY DESIRES MORE WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, WHENEVER YOUR COMMON EVERYDAY THINKING WILL GIVE IT A CHANCE. IT IS LIKE A GUARDIAN ANGEL (AND INDEED IS SOMETIMES CALLED BY THAT NAME), WHICH WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU OR DESERT YOU, FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT YOU AND IT ARE PARTS OF THE SAME BEING.

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NOW MOST OF THE TRAINING OF THE SOLDIER COMES DOWN TO THIS, THAT HE MUST PROTECT HIS OWN LIFE AND HEALTH AND DESTROY THE ENEMY. IT TRIES TO CREATE SKILL AND CONFIDENCE, AND THAT MEANS ON THE OBVERSE SIDE THAT HE MUST NOT SUFFER TOO MUCH FROM FEAR. PERHAPS NO TRAINING CAN WHOLLY DESTROY THE FEAR OF SUFFERING OR DEATH, BECAUSE IT IS A DEEP-ROOTED HUMAN INSTINCT. PERHAPS IT IS NOT DESIRABLE THAT IT SHOULD BE WHOLLY DESTROYED. BUT, NOT TO MINCE WORDS, DEATH IS THE SOLDIER'S BUSINESS; TO PROTECT HIMSELF FROM IT AND TO INFLICT IT.

THERE IS A KIND OF TABOO ON THE SUBJECT IN ORDINARY LIFE, AND WHEN YOU YOUNG MEN LEAVE US ON THE ROAD TO WAR, WE DO NOT SPEAK OF IT TO YOU OR AMONG OURSELVES. YET DEATH, ALONG WITH BIRTH, IS THE ONE COMMON HUMAN EXPERIENCE, UNAVOIDABLE, COMING SOON OR LATE, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, TO EVERY LIVING

THING. AND THE GREAT MASS OF HUMANITY BELIEVES, AND HAS ALWAYS BELIEVED, THAT WE GO ON LIVING AGAIN AFTER DEATH, SOMEWHERE AND IN SOME WAY. IF THERE IS ANY KNOWLEDGE AT ALL TO BE HAD CONCERNING THIS MATTER, IT IS ONLY COMMON SENSE THAT EVERYONE SHOULD POSSESS IT.

IT SUCH KNOWLEDGE IS AVAILABLE, OUR FEAR OF DEATH SHOULD BE GREATLY LESSENED BY IT, AND OUR EXPERIENCES ON THE "OTHER SIDE" AS IT IS CALLED SHOULD BE MADE MUCH EASIER. IF YOU KNEW FOR A CERTAINTY THAT SOME DAY YOU WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A TRIP TO, LET US SAY, TIERRA DEL FUEGO, AND MIGHT HAVE TO STAY THERE A LONG TIME, IT IS LIKELY THAT YOU WOULD MAKE SOME ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS KNOWN ABOUT THAT PLACE; AT LEAST IT WOULD BE VERY PRUDENT AND NATURAL TO DO SO. LIKEWISE, IN THIS MATTER OF DEATH AND A FUTURE LIFE, IT IS NATURAL AND SENSIBLE TO FIND OUT WHAT WE CAN.

PERHAPS YOU WILL SAY AT ONCE THAT NO SUCH KNOWLEDGE IS POSSIBLE, AND SO PUT DOWN THESE PAGES WITHOUT READING ANY FURTHER. BUT I DO NOT AGREE WITH THAT OPINION, AND THERE ARE A GREAT MANY OTHER PEOPLE WHO DO NOT, SOME OF THEM VERY LEARNED AND DISTINGUISHED, AND THE KNOWLEDGE I REFER TO IS NO NEW THING, BUT HAS BEEN A HUMAN POSSESSION FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS. SO EVEN IF YOU DO NOT AGREE, IT MAY BE WISE TO LISTEN TO WHAT SUCH PERSONS HAVE TO SAY.

NO ONE HAS ANY MONOPOLY OF TRUTH, OR KNOWS THE WHOLE TRUTH WITHOUT ERROR. THIS PRINCIPLE, OF COURSE, CUTS BOTH WAYS, BUT IT MAY MAKE US REFLECT THAT UNLESS WE LISTEN TO BOTH SIDES, AND ARE REASONABLY OPEN-MINDED AND TOLERANT, WE SHALL NEVER LEARN ANYTHING WORTHWHILE, BUT ONLY GO ON TO THE END IN THE SHELL OF OUR OWN IGNORANCE AND SMALL OPINIONS.

WHAT I AM GOING TO WRITE ABOUT, THEN, IS DEATH AND THE EXPERIENCES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING IT. FOR YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT WE DO CONTINUE TO LIVE, JUST AS SURELY AS WE WAKE UP IN THE MORNING AFTER THE SHORT DEATH OF OUR NIGHTS' SLEEP. ONLY, THE BODY WE HAVE IS MADE OF FINER, LIGHTER STUFF THAN BEFORE, AND SO IS INVISIBLE, AS A GAS OR THE WIND IS. BUT OUR MINDS AND CHARAGTERS ARE NOT CHANGED, AND WE ARE NOT WHISKED OFF TO SOME FABULOUS HEAVEN OR NIGHTMARISH HELL; AS A RULE WE STAY FOR A TIME RIGHT AT THE PLACE WHERE WE "DIED," UNTIL SOMEONE COMES FOR US OR WE FIND OUT FOR OURSELVES HOW TO MANAGE MATTERS AND GO WHERE WE PLEASE. WE SHALL NOT BE SUFFERING OR IN ANY DANGER AT ALL; OR RATHER, THE ONLY SUFFERING WILL COME FROM CONFUSION AND BEWILDERMENT AND NOT KNOWING WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO US. FOR THIS REASON, EVEN THESE FEW ELEMENTARY FACTS ARE OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE AND SHOULD BE KNOWN TO EVERYONE. IT IS THE GREATEST TRAGEDY OF OUR CULTURE AND SOCALLED EDUCATION THAT THEY ARE NOT.

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PERHAPS THE FIRST FACT THAT CONFUSES US ON THE "OTHER SIDE" IS THE SENSE OF NORMAL REALITY. OUR BODIES SEEM JUST

AS REAL AND SUBSTANTIAL AS EVER AND WE SEE ALL OUR IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS, AND OFTEN CANNOT REALIZE WHAT HAS HAPPENED. IT IS ONLY WHEN WE TRY TO MOVE SOME SOLID OBJECT, OR SPEAK TO OUR FORMER COMPANIONS, THAT WE REALIZE SOMETHING IS "WRONG" — THOUGH, OF COURSE, IT IS QUITE "RIGHT" FOR THE NEW PLANE OF EXISTENCE. OR WE MAY SEE COMRADES WHO HAVE BEEN "KILLED" PREVIOUSLY, AND THEY MAY BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN TO US. BUT IT IS VERY COMMON FOR MEN KILLED IN ACTION TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT, OR TRYING TO FIGHT; AND IF THEY HAVE GONE OVER WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT TO EXPECT AND UNDER CONDITIONS OF TGREAT STRAIN AND EXCITEMENT, THEY MAY GO ON IN THEIR DELUSION A LONG TIME. THE SAME THING HAPPENS TO PEOPLE IN ORDINARY LIFE; THERE ARE MEN WHO KEEP ON LIVING IN THEIR HOMES AND GOING TO THEIR OFFICES FOR MONTHS OR EVEN YEARS; THEY MAY THINK THEY HAVE BEEN ILL OR THAT PEOPLE ACT VERY STRANGELY IN IGNORING THEM, BUT THEY CANNOT REALIZE AND ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THEY ARE "DEAD" AND THEIR EARTH BUSINESS DONE WITH. SUCH CASES ARE EXCEPTIONAL, BUT THEY ARE KNOWN TO EXIST. AND THE MAN WHOSE WHOLE LIFE AND INTEREST IS BOUND UP WITH HIS MONEY OR PROPERTY OR BUSINESS, OR EVEN WITH SOME PERSON, IS LIKELY TO BE "BOUND" BY THAT RELATIONSHIP, AND STAY CLOSE TO HIS OLD HAUNTS UNTIL HE LEARNS BETTER, OR SOMETHING HAPPENS TO DESTROY THE EARTH TIE.

Z ALL THESE FACTS AND MANY MORE HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED OVER AND OVER, IN LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF BOOKS, AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE FAMILIAR WITH THEM. BUT THESE MILLIONS, COMPARED WITH THE WHOLE MASS OF THE POPULATION, ARE AFTER ALL VERY FEW. PERHAPS YOU DO NOT KNOW THESE FACTS YOURSELF, AND IF SO YOU WILL NATURALLY ASK HOW THEY ARE DISCOVERED, AND HOW WE KNOW THEM TO BE FACTS, AND WHY THEY ARE NOT KNOWN AND ACCEPTED BY EVERYONE, AND TAUGHT IN OUR SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES.

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THOSE QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE EXPRESSED FOR YOU (ASSUMING THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW ABOUT SUCH THINGS) CONSTITUTE A RATHER LARGE ORDER. PEOPLE WHO INVESTIGATE THEM ARE KNOWN AS PSYCHIC RESEARCH MEN, OR AS OCCULTISTS, OR PSYCHICS, OR SPIRITUALISTS. I AM NOT CONCERNED WITH SUPPORTING ANY PARTICULAR CULT, AND WOULD PREFER NOT TO PUT ANY TAG ON THE FACTS CONCERNED; IF I AM CONVINCED OF THE GENUINENESS OF A FACT I AM NOT MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT WHO DISCOVERED IT, WHETHER FAMOUS OR WHOLLY UNKNOWN.

AND IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE SUBJECT OF LIFE-AFTER-DEATH HAS BEEN MIXED UP WITH SUPERSTITION AND FANATICISM, AND SO WITH DELUSION AND FRAUD—JUST AS THE ORTHODOX CHURCHES AND MOST RELIGIOUS CULTS HAVE BEEN. EVEN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, FOR THAT MATTER, SHOWS A LONG RECORD OF DOGMATISM AND INTOLERANCE, AND OF FINAL PRONOUNCEMENTS ON EVERYTHING, WHICH AFTER A FEW YEARS HAD TO BE THROWN INTO THE DISCARD.

WITHOUT TRYING TO ARGUE A QUESTION MUCH TOO LARGE FOR THESE FEW PAGES, WE CAN SAY THAT OUR INFORMATION ABOUT DEATH

AND THE LIFE AFTER, COMES FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES. FIRST, IT IS A FACT (BELIEVE IT OR NOT) THAT SO-CALLED "DEAD" PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY VERY MUCH ALIVE, BUT THEY CAN AND DO COME BACK TO US UNDER CERTAIN FAVORABLE CONDITIONS, AND TALK TO US VERY CLEARLY AND RATIONALLY, AND AT GREAT LENGTH SOMETIMES, AND TELL US ABOUT AS MUCH AS WE CAN UNDERSTAND ABOUT CONDITIONS IN THE "NEXT WORLD". THEN, SECONDLY (AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT AGAIN) THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO KNOW HOW TO GET OUT OF THEIR BODIES WITHOUT DYING IN THE USUAL SENSE OF THE WORD, AND INVESTIGATE CONDITIONS ON THE OTHER PLANES, AND THEN RETURN SAFELY TO THEIR LIFE HERE. AND THERE ARE OTHERS WHO CAN SEE AND HEAR THE WORLD OF "SPIRITS", OR WHO GET MESSAGES FROM THEM BY TELEPATHIC MEANS. ALL THESE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION ARE AS OLD AS HISTORY, AND ALL THIS INFORMATION WHEN PUT TOGETHER MAKES QUITE A LARGE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE. ON THE WHOLE AND WITH REFERENCE TO THE BASIC FACTS IT IS CONSISTENT, SO THAT THE PRINCIPAL TEACHINGS IN ALL COUNTRIES AND ALL CENTURIES HANG TOGETHER SURPRISINGLY WELL.

WHEN WE COME TO THE SECOND QUESTION, ABOUT GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OR KNOWLEDGE OF THESE FACTS, THE ANSWER IS MORE DIFFICULT. THE REASON IS, THAT IT LIES IN THE WHOLE HISTORY OF OUR PRESENT TIMES, FOR A CENTURY AND A HALF OR TWO CENTURIES BACK. MODERN SCIENCE BEGAN ITS CAREER IN A FINE BURST OF ENTHUSIASM FOR NEW METHODS AND NEW DISCOVERIES, AND A CORRESPONDING CONTEMPT FOR EVERYTHING THAT DID NOT COME WITHIN ITS OWN SPHERE. AND LATER, WHEN THE THEORY OF DARWINIAN EVOLUTION APPEARED, IT WAS BITTERLY OPPOSED BY CHURCHMEN, AND RELIGION AND SCIENCE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ENGAGED IN A LIFE-OR-DEATH STRUGGLE. ANYTHING ASSOCIATED WITH ANCIENT OR MEDIAEVAL IDEAS, WITH RELIGION, SPIRITUALISM, MAGIC AND THE LIKE, WAS BELIEVED HOSTILE TO SCIENCE, AND HENCE MADE UP OF FRAUD AND DELUSION.

THE WORST OF THIS NONSENSE PASSED OVER IN A FEW DECADES, BUT SCIENCE AS A WHOLE REMAINED VERY MATERIALISTIC, AND THIS ATTITUDE INFECTED THE PUBLIC MIND, AND DOES SO TO THE PRESENT DAY. MODERN SPECULATIVE SCIENCE IS NOT MATERIALISTIC AT ALL, BUT IS ALMOST AS MYSTICAL AS HINDU METAPHYSICS. BUT AT THE SAME TIME THE OLD RELIGIOUS CREEDS BEGAN TO LOSE THEIR AUTHORITY, AND PEOPLE THOUGHT THEY HAD TO BELIEVE IN SCIENCE OR IN NOTHING, AND THAT THE ONLY FACTS WORTH THINKING ABOUT WERE THOSE WHICH COULD BE PROVED TRUE BY LABORATORY METHODS. BUT IT WOULD TAKE A GOOD-SIZED BOOK TO EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND FOR OUR PRESENT WAYS OF THINKING, AND WHOEVER REALLY WANTS TO KNOW HOW WE "GOT THIS WAY" WILL HAVE TO READ UP THE SUBJECT FOR HIMSELF.

YOU HAVE PERHAPS HEARD THE STATEMENT MADE, THAT "SCIENCE" DOES NOT ACCEPT THESE FACTS ABOUT DEATH AND A FUTURE LIFE, OR THE MEANS BY WHICH THEY ARE LEARNED, OR EVEN PERHAPS THAT SCIENCE HAS DISPROVED THEM. THIS, OF COURSE, IS MERE NONSENSE. SCIENCE IS NOT AN ENTITY, A PERSON OR BEING, WHICH CAN PROVE OR DISPROVE ANYTHING. ALL WE HAVE IS THE INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS OF CERTAIN SCIENTISTS, AND THESE OPINIONS DIFFER JUST AS WIDELY AS DO THOSE OF LAYMEN. ONE COULD FILL A LARGE BOOK

WITH THE NAMES OF MEN OF SCIENTIFIC TRAINING WHO HAVE INVESTIGATED "PSYCHIC" AND "SPIRITISTIC" FACTS. NEARLY ALWAYS, WHERE THIS INVESTIGATION WAS CARRIED ON LONG ENOUGH, AND WAS HONEST AND COMPETENT, THE MAN MAKING IT CERTIFIED TO THE GENUINENESS OF THE FACTS -- THAT IS, THAT THEY ACTUALLY OCCURRED, WHATEVER THEIR EXPLANATION MIGHT BE. AND A VERY CONSIDERABLE NUMBER WENT OVER TO THE SPIRITISTIC EXPLANATION, WHILE STILL MORE ADMITTED THAT THIS LATTER WAS AS GOOD, OR PERHAPS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER EXPLANATION THEY COULD THINK OF. BUT EVEN YET, FROM TIME TO TIME, SOME SCIENTIST OR SCIENTIFIC WORKER RISES UP, PRETENDS TO SPEAK IN THE NAME OF "SCIENCE" AS A WHOLE, AND ASSURES THE WORLD THERE IS NOTHING TO IT BUT FRAUD AND DELUSION; AND MANY UNTHINKING OR UNINFORMED PEOPLE TAKE HIS WORDS AT FACE VALUE.

IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE ATTITUDE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCHES; ALL RELIGIONS HAVE TAUGHT THAT LIFE AFTER DEATH IS A FACT, AND ONE WOULD SUPPOSE THEY WOULD WELCOME ANYTHING IN WAY OF PROOF OF IT. BUT MANY OLD CREEDS AND DOGMAS STOOD IN THE WAY, AND BESIDES, THE POSSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL COMMUNICATION WITH "DEAD" PEOPLE TENDED TO UNDERMINE THE AUTHORITY OF RELIGIOUS TEACHERS. MANY CHURCHMEN, HOWEVER, RECOGNIZE THE FACT OF SPIRIT COMMUNICATION, BUT CONSIDER IT HARMFUL, OR PERHAPS THE WORK OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF. THE ATTITUDE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS VERY MUCH OF THIS SORT.

THESE LAST FEW PAGES MAY HAVE MADE DULL READING FOR YOU, BUT IT SEEMED NECESSARY TO PREPARE THE WAY A LITTLE IF I AM TO SAY ANYTHING MORE ABOUT DEATH AND LIFE-AFTER CONDITIONS.

CONCERNING MY OWN ACCEPTANCE, PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY THAT I DID NOT GROW UP IN THIS BELIEF BY ANY MEANS. I WAS A VERY SCEPTICAL AND "SCIENCE-MINDED" PERSON THROUGH ALL THE YEARS OF MY SCHOOLING, BUT IN THE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OR SO SINCE TAKING MY FRIST DEGREE I HAVE LEARNED A GOOD MANY THINGS OF WHICH THE UNIVERSITY APPARENTLY KNEW NOTHING, AND SO HAVE CHANGED MY POINT OF VIEW CONSIDERABLY.

ONCE AGAIN, I CANNOT ATTEMPT TO ARGUE THE CASE FOR OR AGAINST; THE SUBJECT IS AN ENORMOUS ONE AND THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF BOOKS WRITTEN UPON IT; PEOPLE WHO REJECT THE WHOLE MATTER SHOULD TAKE THE TROUBLE TO READ AT LEAST A FEW OF THEM. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME OF THE METHODS OF PERSONAL INVESTIGATION ARE FAIRLY SIMPLE AND REQUIRE NO SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE OR APTITUDES. BUT BEFORE ONE CAN LEARN MUCH ABOUT THIS OR ANY OTHER SUBJECT, ONE MUST HAVE A WILL AND DESIRE TO LEARN, AND ACCEPT AT LEAST TENTATIVELY THAT THERE IS INFORMATION TO BE HAD; THE IDEA IS NOT TO BE EITHER CREDULOUS OR HOSTILE, BUT MERELY OPEN-MINDED AND HONEST WITH ONE'S SELF.

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I WAS SPEAKING OF THE SENSE OF NATURALNESS AND "REALITY" OF ONE'S SURROUNDINGS AFTER DEATH, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT

TO BELIEVE, MANY TIMES, THAT THE CHANGE HAS ACTUALLY TAKEN PLACE. BUT I DO NOT WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EXPERIENCE IS ALWAYS THE SAME, FOR EVERYBODY; IT MAY HAPPEN THAT ONE WILL FIND HIMSELF IN A DIFFERENT PLACE, PERHAPS IN HIS HOME OR IN SOME PLACE FAMILIAR TO HIM AND TO WHICH HE IS ATTACHED. HE WILL NOT BE SEEN OR HEARD BY THOSE ABOUT HIM, AND IT WILL TAKE A LITTLE TIME TO RECOVER FROM THE STRANGENESS OF ALL THIS AND REALIZE WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

A PERSON WHO DIES IN THE SEA, FROM DROWNING OR SOME OTHER CAUSE, MAY REMAIN ON THE SURFACE OF THE WATER IN HIS SPIRIT BODY, AND BE PERFECTLY SAFE AND COMFORTABLE UNTIL SOMEONE COMES FOR HIM, UNLESS HE KNOWS HOW TO GET AWAY BY HIMSELF TO SOME FAMILIAR PLACE. THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO KNOW BEFOREHAND SOMETHING ABOUT THESE CONDITIONS, AND THEN TO REALIZE WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE, AND TO BE CALM AND WITHOUT FEAR, AND TO KNOW THAT ALL DANGER AND PAIN HAS PASSED AWAY.

WE ALL HAVE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES ON THE "OTHER SIDE", AND ALSO THERE ARE PERSONS CALLED GUIDES WHO ARE SPECIALLY CONCERNED WITH LOOKING AFTER EACH OF US. THEY ARE OFTEN EXTREMELY BUSY WITH THEIR DUTIES, AND SO CANNOT ALWAYS COME TO US IMMEDIATELY, BUT THEY ALWAYS COME AS SOON AS THEY CAN. AND HERE IS SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER, IF YOU FIND YOURSELF SUDDENLY IN THE NEW LIFE; YOU SHOULD TRY TO BE CALM AND UNAFRAID, AND THEN TURN YOUR THOUGHTS TO THESE GUIDES, AND TO FRIENDS WHO HAVE ALSO PASSED OVER, AND MAKE A CLEAR MENTAL PICTURE OF THOSE YOU HAVE KNOWN, AND ASK MENTALLY FOR THEIR HELP. COMMUNICATION IS MAINLY TELEPATHIC, AND DISTANCE IS NO OBSTACLE AT ALL, AND YOU CAN BE SURE YOUR THOUGHTS WILL REACH THEM.

ANOTHER THING YOU WILL SOON LEARN, IS THAT YOU CAN TRAVEL ONLY TO THOSE PLACES YOU CAN VISUALIZE. BUT IF YOU WILL RELAX AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, AND FORM A STRONG MENTAL PICTURE OF YOUR HOME OR SOME OTHER PLACE WHERE YOU WANT TO BE, AND WILL AND DESIRE TO GO THERE, THE CHANCES ARE YOU WILL GET THERE VERY QUICKLY. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO PLACES YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN, YOU MAY HAVE TO ATTACH YOURSELF TO SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE WAY, OR TO SOME SHIP OR OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION. BUT ALL YOUR DIFFICULTIES WILL BE QUICKLY OVERCOME, IN PROPORTION AS YOU LEARN ABOUT THE CONDITIONS OF YOUR NEW EXISTENCE.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR NEW BODY IS NOT A "GHOST" OR VAPOR OR GAS; IT IS JUST AS MATERIAL AS OUR PRESENT PHYSICAL BODIES. BUT MATTER, EVEN AS WE KNOW IT HERE, HAS MANY DIFFERENT FORMS AND DEGREES OF FINENESS. MOLECULES AND ATOMS AND ELECTRONS ARE INVISIBLE TO US, AND WE SEE AND FEEL THEM ONLY WHEN THEY ARE CLOSELY PACKED TOGETHER IN GREAT NUMBERS; BUT IF THEY ARE SEPARATED WE CAN NO MORE SEE THEM THAN WE CAN THE PARTICLES OF LIVE STEAM OR GAS OR AIR. AND A BODY MADE UP OF THESE VERY FINE PARTICLES CAN BE MOVED BY THE ENERGY OF THOUGHT ... FOR THINKING IS, OF COURSE, A FORM OF ENERGY. EVEN OUR DENSE PHYSICAL BODIES

ARE POWERFULLY AFFECTED BY OUR THOUGHTS; THEY CAN MAKE US ILL OR DO WONDERS TOWARD HEALING DISEASE AND INJURY. THE SAME PRINCIPLE HOLDS WITH THE SPIRIT BODY, BUT IN THIS CASE IT IS VERY EASY TO AFFECT IT BY THE MIND, AND TO MOVE IT ABOUT FROM PLACE TO PLACE. IT IS REALLY NO MORE MYSTERIOUS THAN THE FACT THAT YOU CAN BEND YOUR LITTLE FINGER WHEN YOU WILL TO DO SO.

THIS POWER TO MOVE MATTER BY OUR THOUGHTS HAS SOME OTHER CONSEQUENCES WHICH WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT. YOU WILL FIND AFTER A TIME THAT YOU CAN ACTUALLY MAKE THINGS BY FORMING AN IMAGE IN YOUR MIND AND HOLDING IT. IF YOU WANT A SUIT OF CLOTHES YOU CAN MAKE IT THIS WAY, AND IT WILL BE A REAL SUIT, JUST AS TRULY MATERIAL AS ANY YOU EVER WORE. YOU CAN MAKE IT BECAUSE YOU ARE NOW DEALING WITH VERY FINE FORMS OF SUBSTANCE WHICH ARE RESPONSIVE TO YOUR THOUGHT ENERGY. BUT THERE IS A DANGER ATTACHED TO THIS PRINCIPLE ALSO. IF YOU PASS INTO THE NEXT LIFE WITH STRONG FIXED IDEAS ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO SEE, YOU MAY CREATE THE THING INVOLUNTARILY, AND SO SUFFER A DELUSION. THE THING WILL BE THERE, AND IN A SENSE "REAL", BUT IT WILL BE SOMETHING YOU MADE YOURSELF BY YOUR FIXED IDEAS. FOR THIS REASON PEOPLE WHO EXPECT TO SEE ANGELS, OR EVEN GOD HIMSELF ON HIS THRONE, MAY HAVE VISIONS OF JUST THAT SORT. ONE MUST KEEP IN MIND ALL THE TIME, THAT THOUGHT IS A CREATIVE FORCE IN THE NEW LIFE. AND IT ALSO FOLLOWS THAT IF YOU SEE ANYTHING WHICH FRIGHTENS YOU, YOU CAN ALMOST ALWAYS DRIVE IT AWAY BY AN EFFORT OF YOUR WILL, AND BY BEING CONFIDENT AND QUIET OF MIND AND UNAFRAID. THE ONLY THING TO BE AFRAID OF IS FEAR ITSELF, BECAUSE THAT ALWAYS LETS DOWN YOUR DEFENSES AND GIVES STRENGTH TO AN ENEMY.

SURELY YOU WILL ADMIT THAT KNOWLEDGE OF THIS SORT IS VERY USEFUL AND IMPORTANT AND COMMONSENSIBLE, AND THAT THERE IS NOTHING MORBID ABOUT IT AT ALL, SINCE EVERYONE MUST DIE SOME TIME.

AND THAT LEADS ME TO ADD, THAT THOUGH I SPOKE OF DEATH AS THE COMMON HUMAN EXPERIENCE, IT IS REALLY NOT AN EXPERIENCE AT ALL. I MEAN THAT THE ACTUAL CHANGE, THE PASSING OVER, IS NOT A FACT OF CONSCIOUSNESS ANY MORE THAN BIRTH IS. OR THE ACT OF GOING TO SLEEP. YOU GO TO SLEEP AND YOU WAKE UP, BUT SINCE THE FALLING ASLEEP IS A LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS, YOU CERTAINLY CANNOT BE AWARE OF IT. THE PROCESS OF DYING IS EXACTLY THE SAME, EXCEPT THAT THE WAKING UP IS INTO A LIFE WHERE CONDITIONS ARE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. A MAN WHO LIVES SIXTY YEARS, AND HAS SLEPT EIGHT HOURS EACH NIGHT, HAS BEEN ASLEEP FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS AND HAS "DIED" 21,900 TIMES — NOT TO MENTION THE CAT-NAPS IN BETWEEN. SO THIS GOING TO SLEEP WHICH WE CALL DEATH WILL NOT BE ANYTHING NEW TO HIM.

ANOTHER FACT OF INTEREST IS, THAT THE MAN WE MENTION HAS PROBABLY BEEN ON THE "OTHER SIDE" HUNDREDS OF TIMES WHILE HIS DENSE BODY WAS ASLEEP, GOING ABOUT AMONG HIS FRIENDS OR CARRYING ON SOME KIND OF WORK. AS A RULE, OF COURSE, WE CANNOT REMEMBER THESE EXPERIENCES WHEN WE WAKE UP; BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DO REMEMBER THEM, AND A GREAT MANY MORE COULD BE

TAUGHT TO DO SO. IT IS ONLY ONE OF MANY SIMILAR FACTS WHICH CAN BE PROVEN, BUT WHICH MOST PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW OR DO NOT ACCEPT, BECAUSE THEY ARE NEVER TOLD ABOUT IT, AND BECAUSE THE PROOF DOES NOT COME EASILY, BUT REQUIRES DESIRE AND KNOWLEDGE AND EFFORT.

THE IMPORTANT BEARING OF THIS IS, THAT WHEN YOU WAKE UP AFTER "DEATH" YOU WILL NOT FIND YOURSELF IN STRANGE OR TERRIBYING SURROUNDINGS; BUT AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ADJUSTED YOUR MIND A LITTLE YOU WILL FIND MOST OF THE CONDITIONS FAMILIAR TO YOU, AND REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ON THE SAME "PLANE" OF EXISTENCE MANY TIMES BEFORE. THE REAL USE OF ALL I HAVE BEEN SAYING IS ONLY THAT IT PREPARES OUR MINDS IN THIS WORLD; BUT IF YOU COULD REMEMBER YOUR OWN SLEEP EXPERIENCES YOU WO WOULD PROBABLY KNOW FAR MORE ABOUT THE "NEXT WORLD", OR THE "ASTRAL PLANE" THAN I CAN TELL YOU.

I SAID THAT THE DYING EXPERIENCE IS NOT PRECISELY THE SAME FOR EVERYONE, AND I WANT TO ADD TWO OTHER ITEMS. ONE IS, THAT THERE IS OFTEN A RAPID MENTAL REVIEW OF THE EVENTS OF THE PAST LIFE, AND YOU HAVE PROBABLY HEARD OF DROWNING MEN HAVING THIS EXPERIENCE. THE OTHER POINT IS, THAT THERE IS USUALLY A PERIOD OF SLEEP, FROM 30 TO 48 HOURS, BUT THIS IS SOMETIMES DELAYED FOR A WHILE AND MAY NOT FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY UPON DEATH.

YOU MAY HAVE HEARD IT SAID THAT SUICIDES SUFFER VERY UNPLEASANT THINGS IN THE FUTURE LIFE, BUT THE MATTER IS NOT QUITE SO SIMPLE AS THAT. PEOPLE GO VOLUNTARILY TO DEATH FOR MANY DIFFERENT REASONS. IF ONE KILLS HIMSELF UNDER GREAT STRESS OF EMOTION, OR IS DERANGED MENTALLY, THAT MENTAL CONDITION MAY CARRY OVER FOR A WHILE ONTO THE OTHER SIDE. IF HE KILLS HIMSELF THROUGH COWARDICE HE MAY REGRET IT BITTERLY WHEN HE GAINS A NEW OUTLOOK. BUT A MAN MAY ALSO SACRIFICE HIS LIFE FOR OTHERS, WHICH IS CERTAINLY A FORM OF SUICIDE ALSO, AND THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT HE PAYS ANY PENALTY FOR THIS. AND MANY STUDENTS OF THE SUBJECT BELIEVE THAT IT IS RIGHT TO ESCAPE FROM SEVERE AND HOPELESS SUFFERING IN THIS WAY, ESPECIALLY IF ONE HAS BECOME A HEAVY BURDEN TO OTHERS. AT ANY RATE IT IS WRONG TO ASSUME THAT EVERY SUICIDE HAS THE SAME EFFECTS, OR THAT THESE ARE ALWAYS BAD.

DEATH DOES NOT CHANGE A MAN'S CHARACTER, BUT IT PUTS HIM INTO NEW CONDITIONS AND GIVES HIM A NEW POINT OF VIEW. IF WE LEAD UGLY AND DEPRAVED AND SELFISH LIVES, WE WILL PAY THE PENALTY IN REGRET AND SORROW, AND IN RETARDED DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS THE ONLY "HELL" INTO WHICH WE MAY ENTER, BUT IT CAN BE A VERY PAINFUL EXPERIENCE FOR ALL THAT. EVEN IN THIS LIFE, SUFFERING OF THE MIND MAY BE WORSE THAN ANY BODILY AFFLICTION. AND WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWETH, THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP.

WE NOTE, TOO, THAT IN THIS LIFE EACH OF US TENDS TO SEEK OUT PERSONS OF HIS OWN SORT, WHO HAVE THE SAME DESIRES AND PLEASURES AND IDEALS. IN THE LIFE TO COME THIS PRINCIPLE

ACTS LIKE A LAW, SO THAT YOU WILL BE DRAWN INTO YOUR OWN LEVEL OF SOCIETY, OR INTO THE "VIBRATION RATE" TO WHICH YOU BELONG, AND THERE YOU WILL STAY UNTIL BY ASPIRATION AND DESIRE AND RIGHT KNOWLEDGE YOU MAKE YOUR ESCAPE INTO BETTER CONDITIONS. JUST AS IRON SINKS, AND WOOD FLOATS, AND GAS RISES, EACH ACCORDING TO ITS SPECIFIC GRAVITY, SO THIS PRINCIPLE OF YOUR VIBRATION RATE, THAT IS, OF YOUR MIND AND CHARACTER, WILL DETERMINE YOUR LOCATION IN THE NEXT WORLD. BUT ONE CAN ALWAYS MOVE ON INTO SOMETHING BETTER, WITHOUT BEING HELD BACK BY DIFFERENCES OF BIRTH AND SOCIAL STANDING AND THE MONEY ONE HAS, AS IS THE CASE HERE. THERE IS NO KNOWN LIMIT TO THE PROGRESS ONE CAN MAKE, BUT IT CAN BE HASTENED OR HELD BACK BY OUR OWN DESIRES AND UNDERSTANDING.

THE DEATH OF THE PHYSICAL BODY IS ONLY THE FIRST OF A SERIES. AS WE CONTINUE TO LEARN AND MAKE PROGRESS IN THE INVISIBLE WORLD, WE FROM TIME TO TIME GET RID OF THE BODY WE ARE USING AND TAKE ON ANOTHER, COMPOSED OF A STILL FINER GRADE OF MATTER; AND THAT, OF COURSE, IS ALL THAT THIS FIRST PHYSICAL DEATH CONSISTS IN. WHEN WE COME TO UNDERSTAND THIS IN THE NEXT LIFE, WE SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT "DEATH" AS SOMETHING VERY DESIRABLE INDEED, AS A SIGN OF PROGRESS.

PERHAPS YOU WONDER WHERE THIS NEW BODY YOU ARE TO USE WILL COME FROM. YOU HAVE IT NOW, AND YOUR OTHER AND STILL FINER BODIES ALSO. YOU KNOW THAT ONE CAN FILL A PAIL WITH COARSE GRAVEL, AND THEN WITH FINE GRAVEL AND SAND, AND FINALLY ADD WATER, SO THAT THE SINGLE CONTAINER HOLDS ALL FOUR KINDS OF MATERIAL. OR YOU MAY HAVE SEEN AN INSTRUCTOR IN PHYSICS FILL A GLASS TO THE VERY BRIM WITH WATER, AND THEN ADD A LARGE HANDFUL OF LOOSE COTTON, A LITTLE AT A TIME, UNTIL THE GLASS IS FULL OF WET COTTON — ALL WITHOUT MAKING THE WATER OVERFLOW A SINGLE DROP. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE INTERPENTRATION OF MATTER. WELL, THE "FIRST BODY" YOU HAVE, NEXT TO THE DENSE PHYSICAL ONE, IS CALLED THE ETHERIC, AND IT EXISTS IN AND THROUGH AND AROUND THE DENSE BODY. IT HELPS TO FORM WHAT IS CALLED THE AURA, WHICH IS A KIND OF LUMINOUS HAZE SURROUNDING THE BODY, AND WHICH SOME PEOPLE CAN SEE QUITE EASILY. IT CAN ALSO BE SEEN BY ALMOST ANYONE BY THE USE OF THE SO-CALLED KILNER SCREENS, WHICH ARE MADE OF GLASS PLATES WITH A SOLUTION OF DICYANIN BETWEEN THEM. OR YOU CAN GET A GLIMPSE OF THE ETHERIC AURA BY HOLDING YOUR FINGER TIPS CLOSE TOGETHER AGAINST A DARK BACKGROUND, AND THEN SLOWLY SEPARATING THEM AN INCH OR SO; MOST PEOPLE WILL SEE A VERY THIN GRAYISH VAPOR PASSING BETWEEN THE FINGER TIPS. YOU MUST LOOK FOR IT EASILY AND NATURALLY, WITHOUT STRAINING.

WELL, THIS MAY SEEM A STRANGE SORT OF LETTER TO WRITE TO A SOLDIER, OR TO ANYONE FOR THAT MATTER; AND PERHAPS PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS OF THE SUBJECT WOULD NOT THINK I HAVE SAID VERY MUCH, OR WOULD FIND FAULT WITH SOME OF THE EXPRESSIONS I HAVE USED. BUT, I THINK THEY WOULD AGREE THAT THE GIST OF IT IS CORRECT, AND IN AGREEMENT WITH BOTH ANCIENT AND MODERN KNOWLEDGE. AND, AS I SAID BEFORE, YOU MAY NOT AGREE THAT IT IS

KNOWLEDGE AT ALL, AND THINK IT ALL THEORY OR IDLE SUPERSTITION. BUT I TAKE MY OWN STAND WITH THOSE WHO HOLD THAT IT IS TRUE AND VERIFIABLE, AND VERY IMPORTANT AND PRACTICAL. I DO NOT SEND IT TO YOU BECAUSE OF ANY FEELING THAT YOU WILL MEET YOUR OWN DEATH IN THIS WAR, BUT, OF COURSE, THAT IS POSSIBLE, AND, OF COURSE, IT WILL COME SOME TIME TO ALL OF US. AND BECAUSE OF MY OWN CONVICTION THAT THESE THINGS ARE TRUE, I THINK IT IS RIGHT THAT I SHOULD AT LEAST TELL YOU ABOUT THEM IN SOME BRIEF AND SIMPLE WAY; WHETHER THEY RING TRUE AND PROVE USEFUL TO YOU OR NOT, DEPENDS ONLY ON YOURSELF.

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AND I ENTREAT YOU AGAIN, AS I DID AT THE BEGINNING OF THESE PAGES, TO LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE ANGEL; THAT IS, OF YOUR OWN SECRET AND HIGHER SELF, AND WHICH BELONGS TO WHAT WE CALL (FROM OUR LOWER POINT OF VIEW) THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND. IT HAS A VAST WISDOM AND MEMORY AND FORESIGHT, AND SINCE IT IS A PART OF YOURSELF, OR REALLY YOUR TRUE SELF, IT WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU. YOU MUST LISTEN TO IT IN ALL YOUR TIMES OF QUIET, AND IN THE SERVICES OF WHATEVER RELIGION PLEASES YOU BEST, AND REMEMBER THAT IT IS PLEASED WITH ALL THINGS RIGHT AND TRUE AND BEAUTIFUL. IT WILL BECOME KNOWN TO YOU AND GUIDE YOU, IN PROPORTION AS YOU LEARN TO RECOGNIZE IT, AND TO LISTEN AND YIELD TO IT.

AND NOW MAY GOD GUIDE AND PROTECT AND ALL YOUR COMRADES IN ARMS EVERYWHERE, THE SOLDIERS OF THE ARMIES OF THE REPUBLIC IN HER HOUR OF GREATEST NEED. MAY HE BRING VICTORY TO YOUR ARMS, AND A JUST PEACE TO THE WHOLE OF OUR WAR-TORN WORLD, AND BRING YOU ALL SAFELY HOME AGAIN TO US AND ALL WHO LOVE YOU AND WAIT YOUR RETURN.

— FROM THE ONE WHO YOU KNOW LOVES YOU.

— A SECOND LETTER —

IN ANSWER TO VARIOUS

INQUIRIES AND COMMENTS

THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF VARIETY, OF COURSE, IN YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT MY FIRST "LETTER". SOME OF YOU WERE QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBJECT, SO THAT NOTHING I SAID WAS NEW TO YOU; A GOOD MANY MORE HAD HEARD OF SUCH IDEAS OR "TEACHINGS", DID NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEM BUT WERE SOMEWHAT INTERESTED; OTHERS FOUND THEM STRANGE AND SOMETIMES UNPLEASANT, OR IN CONFLICT WITH RELIGIOUS IDEAS, OR DOWNRIGHT FANTASTIC AND UNREASONABLE. SOME FEW SEEMED TO THINK THAT EVERYTHING I HAD SET DOWN WAS A MERE BASELESS INVENTION OF MY OWN, THOUGH, OF COURSE, THAT WAS NOT TRUE OF A SINGLE SENTENCE OF IT. AND A GOOD MANY OF YOU COMPLAINED THAT I OFFERED NOTHING IN THE WAY OF EVIDENCE OR PROOF. THAT IS QUITE TRUE, AND THE DEMAND FOR IT IS NATURAL AND LEGITIMATE.

BUT I DID TRY TO POINT OUT, AS YOU MAY RECALL, THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES FROM WHICH OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE "NEXT WORLD" IS DERIVED, AND ALSO THAT I COULD NOT POSSIBLY ENTER INTO ANY ARGUMENT ABOUT THEM, IN THE FEW PAGES AT MY DISPOSAL. I TRIED ONLY TO SELECT A FEW OF THE MORE IMPORTANT FACTS, THAT HAVE A DIRECT PRACTICAL VALUE, AND TO GIVE THEM A LITTLE BACKGROUND, WITHOUT TRYING TO "PROVE" THEIR GENUINENESS. AND I AM AFRAID THAT EVEN THIS SECOND LETTER WILL FAIL TO MEET THIS LAST POINT, BUT IT MAY GO PART WAY TOWARD DOING SO, AND AT LEAST CLEAR UP SOME MISUNDERSTANDING. SO AT THE RISK OF CONSIDERABLE DULLNESS I SHALL HAVE TO WRITE A FEW PARAGRAPHS ABOUT THIS MATTER OF EVIDENCE AND PROOF, BEFORE GOING ON TO THE SUBJECT OF FACT WHICH EVERYBODY SHOULD KNOW WHO WANTS TO INVESTIGATE THIS SUBJECT FOR HIMSELF.

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ALL OF THE INFORMATION (OR ALLEGED INFORMATION, IF YOU PREFER) ABOUT AFTER-DEATH CONDITIONS, DEPENDS EITHER ON CLAIRVOYANCE AND ASTRAL EXPERIENCE, OR ON SPIRIT COMMUNICATION THROUGH SOME FORM OF MEDIUMSHIP OR PSYCHISM. THESE LATTER TWO, OF COURSE, ASSUME, AND DEPEND ON TWO BASIC FACTS: THAT WE CONTINUE TO LIVE AFTER DEATH, IN A NORMAL AND PERSONAL SENSE, AND THAT SO-CALLED DEAD PERSONS CAN AND DO COMMUNICATE WITH US. IF THESE ARE "TRUE FACTS", THEN IT IS NOT UNREASONABLE TO SUPPOSE THAT WE MAY HAVE LEARNED A GOOD DEAL, FROM SUCH COMMUNICATORS, ABOUT CONDITIONS OF LIFE ON THE "OTHER SIDE"; AND SO IT IS TO THESE FACTS THAT OUR EVIDENCE AND PROOF SHOULD BE APPLIED.

THE FIRST AND, OF COURSE, ALL-IMPORTANT QUESTION IS SIMPLY: WHAT CONSTITUTES PROOF OF SURVIVAL AND COMMUNICATION? WHEN IS THE CASE PROVED? AND THIS REALLY RESOLVES ITSELF, AS WE SHALL SEE LATER, INTO "WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE PROOF FOR YOU (OR ME) PERSONALLY?" OR, IF I AM CONVINCED AND YOU ARE NOT, WHAT EVIDENCE CAN I OFFER THAT YOU WOULD ACCEPT AND FIND CONCLUSIVE? I KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT, OFFHAND, FORMULATE ALL YOUR REQUIREMENTS, BECAUSE THESE WOULD CHANGE AS YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT INCREASED, AND AS YOU GAVE THOUGHT TO THE QUESTIONS INVOLVED. ON THE OTHER

HAND, IT IS NOT PRACTICABLE FOR ME TO ANTICIPATE EVERY POSSIBLE OBJECTION THAT THE MOST DETERMINED SCEPTIC CAN RAISE, AND ANSWER EACH ONE POINT BY POINT AND IN A CONVINCING MANNER. IT IS NOT PRACTICABLE (THOUGH I CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE) BECAUSE THAT WOULD MEAN WRITING A BOOK OR A HALF DOZEN BOOKS, AND SUMMING UP THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIC RESEARCH AND OF SPIRITISM. PROBABLY THE BEST I CAN DO, FOR THE MOMENT, IS TO ASK WHAT KIND OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WOULD MOST IMPRESS YOU; AND WHEN WOULD YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE TESTIMONY OF OTHER PEOPLE OR WHAT WITNESSES WOULD YOU BELIEVE, AND UNDER WHAT CONDITION? IF YOU WILL THINK THIS OVER CAREFULLY AND TAKE HONEST ACCOUNT OF YOUR OWN PREJUDICES AND HABITS OF THOUGHT, YOUR FIRST STEPS WILL BE EASIER AND MORE PROFITABLE.

LET US TAKE SOME NAIVE AND MOST IMPROBABLE EXAMPLE: SUPPOSE THAT THE "GHOST" OF SOME DEPARTED FRIEND ROSE UP BEFORE YOU, AT HIGH NOON, IN CLEAR SUNLIGHT, AND WAS IN ALL WAYS RECOGNIZABLE (THOUGH PERHAPS HE SHOULD BE SOMEWHAT TRANSPARENT, TO KEEP TO THE CONVENTION), AND TALKED TO YOU FOR A FEW MOMENTS VERY INTELLIGENTLY AND QUITE IN HIS OLD-TIME MANNER — AND AT THE END SANK DOWN THROUGH THE EARTH SLOWLY, OR ELSE WHISKED AWAY IN AN INSTANT, WITH OR WITHOUT ODOR EITHER OF BRIMSTONE OR SANCTITY. SUCH AN EXPERIENCE, YOU MAY THINK, WOULD BE VERY CONVINCING, AND SO IT MIGHT BE IN YOUR INDIVIDUAL CASE. BUT IT WOULD BE MORE THE RULE THAN THE EXCEPTION IF, AFTER A FEW DAYS OR A WEEK OR TWO, YOU FOUND THE WHOLE AFFAIR DREAMLIKE AND UNREAL, AND WERE SURE THAT YOU HAD A TOUCH OF SUN, OR A HALLUCINATION, OR HAD FALLEN ASLEEP AND DREAMED IT ALL. BECAUSE THAT IS ACTUALLY THE WAY MANY PEOPLE REACT AFTER SOME FIRST STRIKING EXPERIENCE. THE INERTIA OF THOUGHT HABITS AND THE PROTECTIVE INSTINCT OF THE HUMAN MIND ARE VERY POWERFUL; IT SIMPLY SHEDS OFF STRANGE AND UNWELCOME FACTS WHICH IT CANNOT ASSIMILATE.

OBVIOUSLY, IF YOUR GHOST CAME EVERY DAY, AND WAS VISIBLE TO OTHER PEOPLE AND COULD BE INVESTIGATED TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT, YOU WOULD HAVE A VERY FINE CASE. IT SO HAPPENS, HOWEVER, THAT WE CANNOT FORCE NATURAL PHENOMENA INTO ANY CONDITIONS WE CHOOSE, BUT HAVE TO PAY REGARD TO THE LAWS OF NATURE WHICH GOVERN THEM; AND MANY A SO-CALLED SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE "OCCULT" HAS COME TO NOTHING FOR NO OTHER REASON. BUT ALL WE ARE CONCERNED WITH FOR THE MOMENT, IS WHETHER SUCH AN EXPERIENCE WOULD REALLY "PROVE" ANYTHING TO YOU, EXCEPT THAT "SOMETHING HAPPENED".

THESE WORDS, PROOF AND EVIDENCE, ARE USED ON MANY LEVELS OF UNDERSTANDING. IF I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT THE SUM OF THE ANGLES OF A TRIANGLE, OR THE VALUE OF THE SQUARE ON THE HYPOTENUSE, YOU CAN TAKE RULER AND PENCIL AND PRODUCE YOUR PROOF. IF I DENY THAT COMMON SALT COMES FROM A METAL AND A GAS, A SIMPLE LABORATORY EXPERIMENT WILL SETTLE THE QUESTION. AND IF YOU CAN FIND RELIABLE WITNESSES WHO SAW ME STEALING GASOLINE, YOU CAN PROVE MY GUILT IN A COURT OF LAW (WHERE THE GUILTY ARE SOMETIMES "PROVED" INNOCENT, AND VICE VERSA).

THESE ARE ALL PROOFS OF A CERTAIN ORDER, AVAILABLE IN MATHEMATICS AND CHEMISTRY, OR UNDER LEGAL RULES OF EVIDENCE.

BUT NOW CONSIDER THIS MATTER OF PROOF IN A QUESTION OF A DIFFERENT KIND. LET US SUPPOSE, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION, OR THAT THE FIRST LIFE FORMS WERE SINGLE CELLS, AND THAT ALL THE LARGE ORGANISMS HAVE DEVELOPED FROM THESE, INSTEAD OF BEING CREATED OUT OF HAND. SAY THAT I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THIS, OR ELSE HAVE BARELY HEARD OF IT, AND THINK IT IS FOOLISH, OR MERELY GUESSWORK AND PERHAPS IRRELIGIOUS. SUPPOSE ON THE OTHER HAND THAT YOU HAVE STUDIED THE SUBJECT FOR YEARS, AND KNOW THAT THE IDEA IS CENTURIES OLD, THAT THERE IS A LIBRARY-FULL OF BOOKS ABOUT IT, AND A VAST MAZE OF RESEARCH, AND VARIOUS NOTIONS AS TO THE MEANING AND MANNER AND CAUSE OF EVOLUTION — AND SO ON. AND THEN, PERHAPS, YOU HAVE OCCASION TO WRITE 10 OR 15 PAGES ON THE SUBJECT, STATING SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL FACTS.

BUT I, WHO READ YOUR SMALL ESSAY, AND FIND IT STRANGE AND A LITTLE SHOCKING, SAY AT ONCE THAT THE WHOLE NOTION IS FANTASTIC, AND DEMAND SOME PROMPT AND SATISFACTORY PROOF. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ANSWER ME, IF YOU ATTEMPT TO REPLY AT ALL? YOU WOULD PROBABLY BE REDUCED TO SAYING, AFTER A LITTLE REFLECTION, THAT "THE EVIDENCE LIES ALONG THIS LINE AND THAT; AND HERE ARE SUCH AND SUCH AUTHORITIES; YOU WILL HAVE TO READ THEM FOR YOURSELF. OR, IF THAT WON'T DO, YOU WILL HAVE TO GO IN FOR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH."

THAT ISN'T A MATTER OF TAKING REFUGE IN YOUR OWN LEARNING, FROM AN EMBARRASSING QUESTION. IT'S ACTUALLY ABOUT THE ONLY SENSIBLE COURSE LEFT TO YOU.

OF COURSE, YOU COULD MAKE A KIND OF BRIEF OF THE EVIDENCE, AND SUM UP A GOOD DEAL IN A FEW PAGES. BUT THIS, TOO, WOULD CONSIST OF FLAT ASSERTIONS THAT CERTAIN FACTS EXIST, ACCORDING TO CERTAIN ALLEGED AUTHORITIES, AND ARE TO BE INTERPRETED IN A CERTAIN WAY. AND THE STATEMENT WOULD LIKELY BE VERY TECHNICAL AND CONDENSED AND DIFFICULT FOR A LAYMAN. I COULD STILL QUESTION ALL YOUR AUTHORITIES, AND HINT AT PREJUDICE AND DELUSION, AND POINT TO MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE, MANY OF THEM VERY DISTINGUISHED, WHO DO NOT AGREE WITH YOU. AND IF INSTEAD OF BEING SO COMPREHENSIVE, YOU CONFINED YOUR ARGUMENT TO A SINGLE LINE OF RESEARCH, I COULD SAY YOUR FACTS WERE INSUFFICIENT AND YOUR AUTHORITIES TOO FEW, AND PROBABLY FIND ANY NUMBER OF OTHER OBJECTIONS.

THIS EXAMPLE SUGGESTS SIMPLY THIS. IF YOU WERE CONVINCED, AFTER A VERY CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF INVESTIGATION, THAT SPIRITUALISM IS "TRUE" — THAT ALL THE ALLEGED PHENOMENA ARE (ON OCCASION) REAL AND GENUINE, AND THAT WE HAVE MUCH SOUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIFE BEYOND DEATH — AND IF I DEMANDED EVIDENCE AND PROOF, YOU WOULD BE IN EXACTLY THE SAME DIFFICULTY AS WITH OFFERING AN OFF-HAND PROOF OF EVOLUTION. YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT YOUR EVIDENCES ARE

CUMULATIVE, DRAWN FROM A THOUSAND SOURCES, THAT YOU ARE ARGUING FROM A VAST PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE, IN BEHALF OF REASONABLE CONVICTION, BUT THAT YOU CANNOT "PROVE" YOUR POINT WITH RULE AND COMPASS, OR BY MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS, OR EVEN BY RULES OF LEGAL EVIDENCE AND ANY "ORTHODOX" TYPE OF LABORATORY EXPERIMENT. YOU WOULD KNOW I WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO EVALUATE THE FACTS EVEN IF I ACCEPTED THEM, AND THAT IF I REJECT YOUR AUTHORITIES THERE IS LITTLE YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT. IF YOU KNEW SOME ONE FACT WHICH WOULD CONVINCE ME, YOU WOULD BRING THAT FORWARD AND DEVOTE ALL YOUR TIME TO IT, BUT YOU HAVEN'T THE LEAST IDEA WHICH ONE WOULD SERVE. ALL YOU CAN REALLY ASSUME ON MY PART IS A GODLY PREJUDICE AGAINST EVOLUTION, AND THAT MY BIOLOGY IS STRICTLY WITHIN ABC OR BARNYARD LIMITS.

I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO ANY TECHNICAL AND INVOLVED DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT CONSTITUTES EVIDENCE AND PROOF IN PSYCHIC RESEARCH, PARAPSYCHOLOGY, SPIRITISM AND THE LIKE. THERE ARE MANY ARTICLES AND INDEED WHOLE BOOKS GIVEN TO THE SUBJECT, AND IT HAS BEEN THRESHED OUT PRETTY THOROUGHLY FROM THE LEGAL AND SCIENTIFIC ANGLES. BUT LET US SEE IF WE CANNOT EXPRESS THE WHOLE SITUATION SOMEWHAT LIKE THIS. WE HAVE HERE AN IMMENSE BODY OF FACTS OR ALLEGED FACTS, CONNECTED WITH LIFE-AFTER-DEATH AND WITH SPIRIT COMMUNICATION. THEY HAVE BEEN KNOWN OR BELIEVED IN FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, AND "HANG TOGETHER" VERY WELL IN THEIR ESSENTIAL IDEAS. MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THEM, AND DO SO TODAY. MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN EXAMINED, DURING THE LAST CENTURY OR SO, BY SCIENTISTS AND SCIENTIFIC WORKERS, AND THIS STUDY HAS SOMETIMES BEEN SINCERE AND THOROUGH, BUT USUALLY CASUAL, OFTEN PREJUDICED AND HOSTILE, AND USUALLY BY INAPPROPRIATE METHODS. THERE ARE, NATURALLY, NO COMPLETE STATISTICS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF SO-CALLED SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATORS OR THEIR OPINIONS. ONE CAN POINT, HOWEVER, TO SOME HUNDREDS OF NAMES, OF MEN OF SCIENTIFIC DISTINCTION, WHO HAVE VERIFIED THE GENUINENESS OF SUPERNORMAL PHENOMENA, IN ONE PHASE OR ANOTHER. SOME OF THESE HAVE BECOME THOROUGH-GOING SPIRITUALISTS, A GREAT MANY MORE HAVE ACCEPTED THE SPIRITUALISTIC EXPLANATION AS PROBABLE OR POSSIBLE. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN OFFICIAL VERDICT BY "OFFICIAL" SCIENCE — THAT IS, BY LEARNED BODIES, SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS, AND DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS OF RESEARCH. ALL THAT WE REALLY HAVE IS THE INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS OF THE VARIOUS INVESTIGATORS. MEANWHILE, AS THE POSITIVE EVIDENCE CONTINUES TO ACCUMULATE, AND BECOMES KNOWN, SPIRITISM AND ITS RELIGIOUS FORM OF SPIRITUALISM ARE SPREADING WITH AMAZING RAPIDITY.

IT IS NOW AN AXIOM AMONG PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS OF THIS SUBJECT, THAT "THE QUESTION OF ACTUALITY, OR FACTUALITY, NO LONGER EXISTS." THAT IS, THE WHOLE RANGE OF SPIRITISTIC PHENOMENA IS ACCEPTED AS BEING (ON OCCASION) "REAL", OBJECTIVE, NON-FRAUDULENT, WHATEVER THE CAUSES MAY BE, WHETHER SPIRITS EXCARNATE OR INCARNATE, OR IMPERSONAL AND UNKNOWN FORCES. I AM SPEAKING PARTICULARLY OF PSYCHIC RESEARCH MEN AND THE METAPSYCHOLOGISTS GENERALLY. THE SPIRITUALISTS, WHO CONCENTRATE ON SPIRIT COMMUNICATION AND THE NATURE OF SPIRIT

LIFE, COULD PROBABLY COLLECT MANY VOLUMES OF FIRST CLASS EVIDENCE EVERY NIGHT IN THE YEAR, IF ALL THE SEANCES WENT ON RECORD. IT HAS BEEN POINTED OUT MANY TIMES, THAT THERE IS NO PAUCITY OF DATA; THE TROUBLE IS THAT THERE ARE SUCH MOUNTAINS OF IT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ORGANIZE AND COLLATE AND STUDY IT PROPERLY.

IF THIS IS TRUE, WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO BRING EASY AND CONVINCING PROOF TO THE SCEPTIC. THIS HAS BEEN PARTLY ANSWERED ALREADY, BUT WE MUST ADD THAT NO ONE HAS YET DEVISED ANY SINGLE EXPERIMENT, AN EXPERIMENTUM CRUCIS, WHICH TAKEN BY ITSELF IS IRREFUTABLE PROOF. I AM SURE THAT YOU, PERSONALLY, CAN THINK UP EXPERIENCES WHICH WOULD BE ALL THE PROOF YOU COULD ASK FOR; BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN THINK OF ANY ONE SINGLE EXPERIENCE WHICH WOULD COMPEL THE BELIEF OF OTHER PEOPLE. AN EXPERIENCE, OF COURSE, WITHIN THE RANGE OF THE PHENOMENA WHICH ARE POSSIBLE. PROBABLY NOTHING EVER HAPPENS IN THIS WORLD, FOR WHICH AN ALTERNATIVE "EXPLANATION" CANNOT BE DEVISED, AT LEAST BY AN ARM-CHAIR CRITIC, WHO HAS AN INGENIOUS MIND AND A HOSTILE ATTITUDE. THE NEWCOMER WHO IS LOUD IN HIS DEMAND FOR PROOF CAN DO NO MORE THAN EXAMINE THE LITERATURE OF THE SUBJECT, AND INVESTIGATE FOR HIMSELF SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, AND CONSIDER THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AND OF HIS OWN DEMAND, AND TRY TO FORMULATE HIS IDEA OF WHAT WOULD CONSTITUTE PROOF IN HIS OWN CASE.

AND THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF FACTS, OF A UNIVERSAL CHARACTER, WHICH HAVE EXISTED UNDER THE VERY NOSE OF HUMANITY, SO TO SPEAK, FOR MANY CENTURIES, WITHOUT BEING USED OR FORMULATED OR UNDERSTOOD — SUCH AS THE CIRCULATION OF THE BLOOD, AND THE LAW OF FALLING BODIES, AND THE CAUSES OF MANY DISEASES, AND OF INFECTION AND CONTAGION, AND ALL KINDS OF ELECTRICAL AND MAGNETIC PHENOMENA AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS. THE FACTS OF SPIRITISM HAVE ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN IN A GENERAL WAY, AND HAVE BEEN STUDIED AND UNDERSTOOD BY A FEW, AND BURIED IN SUPERSTITION BY THE MANY, AND ACCEPTED BUT FEARED BY RELIGION, AND THEN FOR A TIME JEERED AT BY THE SMUG COMPLACENCY OF 19TH CENTURY SCIENCE. THIS LAST PHASE IS NOW SLOWLY BUT SURELY PASSING AWAY.

IN LIEU OF OUR SUPPOSED CASE OF THE "GHOST" APPEARING AT HIGH NOON, LET US CONSIDER SUCH AN OCCURRENCE AS THIS. SUPPOSE YOU AND A FEW OF YOUR ACQUAINTANCES GO TO THE HOME OF A FRIEND, IN A HOUSE WELL KNOWN TO YOU, AND THERE HANG A BLACK CURTAIN ACROSS ONE CORNER OF THE ROOM, AGAINST THE SOLID PLASTERED WALL; AND THEN ONE OF YOU WHO HAPPENS TO BE MEDIUMISTIC SITS DOWN INSIDE THE CURTAIN OR JUST NEXT TO IT. YOU THEN DIM THE LIGHTS SOMEWHAT, BUT THERE IS STILL ENOUGH SO THAT YOU CAN READ LARGE-SIZED (SAY 1 CM) TYPE. AND AFTER SOME USUAL PRELIMINARIES AND A PERIOD OF WAITING, SOMEONE BEGINS TO SPEAK TO YOU FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN, AND THEN A HUMAN FIGURE APPEARS, PERHAPS FULLY CLOTHED IN ORDINARY ATTIRE, AND TALKS NORMALLY AND INTELLIGENTLY TO SOME ONE PRESENT. THEN HE EITHER WITHDRAWS INTO THE "CABINET" OR

SEEMS TO SINK DOWN THROUGH THE FLOOR, AND ANOTHER FORM APPEARS, PERHAPS A WOMAN THIS TIME, OR A CHILD, WHO ALSO TALKS FREELY AND RATIONALLY. AND THIS KIND OF THING GOES ON AND ON FOR AN HOUR OR TWO, AND THE FORMS ARE OF BOTH SEXES, ALL AGES, DIFFERENT STATURE, DIFFERENT VOICES, AND IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO FRIENDS AND RELATIVES, AND TALK OVER INCIDENTS OF THEIR PAST LIVES.

SUPPOSE, I SAY, FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT, THAT SUCH THINGS HAPPEN. I ASSURE YOU THAT THEY DO, AND HAVE BEEN SEEN BY MANY THOUSANDS OF COMMON FOLK WHO WERE NOT SCIENTISTS OR RESEARCH SPECIALISTS, BUT WHO DID HAVE SOME COMMON SENSE AND THE USE OF THEIR EYES AND EARS, BUT STILL I DO NOT ASK YOU TO BELIEVE IT, BUT ONLY TO SUPPOSE SUCH AN OCCURRENCE. CONSIDERING WHERE YOU ARE AND ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU KNOW VERY WELL THAT THERE ARE NO TRAP DOORS IN THE WALLS AND FLOOR, AND NO BAND OF CONFEDERATES HIRED AT NO SMALL EXPENSE AND CAREFULLY COACHED UPONON A THOUSAND DETAILS OF LIVES OF VARIOUS "DEAD" PERSONS AND THEIR RELATIVES; AND THE SUGGESTION THAT YOU HAVE BEEN HYPNOTIZED SEEMS AS SILLY AS IT REALLY IS, AND SO DOES THE IDEA THAT YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING TO "ASTRAL SHELLS" AND VAPOROUS SPOOKS, OR TO ELEMENTALS OR DEMONS, OR TO ANYTHING OR ANYONE EXCEPT A SUCCESSION OF NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS, ALL OF WHOM HOWEVER COME OUT OF A 2 X 4 WALL CORNER BEHIND A CURTAIN. SUCH AN EXPERIENCE MIGHT GIVE YOU, OR EVEN THE MOST DETERMINED SCEPTIC, A VERY HARD NUT TO CRACK.

AND IF YOU KNOW THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIC RESEARCH YOU HAVE TO ADMIT THAT NO ONE HAS CRACKED IT, BY ANY EXPLANATION APART FROM THE SPIRITISTIC — STILL ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT IT ALL REALLY HAPPENS.

WHAT I HAVE GIVEN IS A VERY SKETCHY ACCOUNT OF THE MAIN FEATURES OF AN EXCEPTIONAL TYPE OF MATERIALIZATION SEANCE. DON'T GET THE IDEA THAT YOU CAN SEE EXACTLY SUCH HAPPENINGS IN EVERY SEANCE ROOM. GOOD MATERIALIZATION MEDIUMS ARE INCREASINGLY RARE. RESULTS DEPEND ON MENTAL OR PSYCHIC OR "SPIRITUAL" CONDITIONS AS MUCH AS ON THE PHYSICAL, WHICH IS ONE REASON A COMMITTEE OF HOSTILE INVESTIGATORS WITH A LABORATORY SET-UP MIGHT, WITH THE SAME MEDIUM, GET NO RESULTS AT ALL. THAT MAY BE UNFORTUNATE, BUT IT'S NATURE'S WAY OF MANAGING THINGS AND NOT INVENTED BY SPIRITUALISTS. AND I DON'T SAY THAT THE CASE FOR SPIRITUALISM STANDS OR FALLS BY SUCH REMARKABLE AND COMPARATIVELY RARE PHENOMENA; THE EVIDENCE, TO REPEAT, IS CUMULATIVE, AND VERY COMPLEX IN NATURE AND CONDITIONS, AND COVERS A WIDE VARIETY OF HAPPENINGS. I HAVE SKETCHED SEANCE EVENTS WHICH ACTUALLY HAPPEN, BUT WITHOUT ASKING YOU TO BELIEVE ME, AND ONLY TO ILLUSTRATE THE KIND OF EXPERIENCE WHICH WHEN CORRELLATED WITH OTHER EVIDENCE USUALLY MAKES A SPIRITUALIST OUT OF ANY HALF-REASONING SCEPTIC.

I MIGHT ADD, TOO, THAT EXPERIENCES SUCH AS THE FOLLOWING HAD AN EFFECT ON MY OWN SCEPTICISM. I BOUGHT A COUPLE

OF SMALL SLATES, AND TIED THEM TOGETHER WITH CORD, AND LET A MEDIUMISTIC FRIEND OF MINE HOLD ONE CORNER OF THEM. I SHOULD SAY, THOUGH, THAT I FIRST PUT A BIT OF SLATE PENCIL INSIDE, AND ALSO DREW A CHALK LINE DOWN THE CENTER OF EACH SLATE. AFTER TWO OR THREE MINUTES THE SLATES WERE WRENCHED ABOUT SO VIOLENTLY THAT I COULD HARDLY KEEP MY GRIP ON THEM; THERE WAS A SCRATCHING SOUND, APPARENTLY FROM INSIDE THE SLATES, AND THEN THREE RAPS ON THEM. WHEN I UNTIED THE SLATES THERE WAS A WRITTEN MESSAGE ON THEM, AND THE WRITING WAS OVER AND ACROSS THE CHALK LINE.

NOW IS THE TIME, OF COURSE, FOR SOME BOOK-WISE SCEPTIC TO ARISE AND TELL ME THAT THERE ARE SOME 50 KNOWN METHODS FOR PRODUCING THIS PHENOMENON BY FRAUD, AND TO DEMAND THAT I PRODUCE PHOTOGRAPHS, AND WITNESSES, AND RECOUNT EVERY PRECISE DETAIL OF LOCATION, AND LIGHT (WHICH WAS FULL DAYLIGHT), AND FURNISHINGS (WHICH WERE TWO CHAIRS), AND MAKE AFFIDAVITS THAT I AM NOT LYING, AND PRESENT A CERTIFICATE FROM A PSYCHIATRIST. INVESTIGATORS SOMETIMES DO ALL THIS, WITH THE SOLE RESULT THAT THE CRITICS FALL UPON THEM TOOTH AND CLAW, AND FIND THAT THERE ARE TWO MISPLACED COMMAS IN THE REPORT, AND THAT THE COLOR OF THE MEDIUM'S SOCKS WAS NOT MENTIONED, AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY THE WHOLE ACCOUNT IS WORTHLESS. PROBABLY I SHOULD ADD, THAT WHOLLY INEXPLICABLE THINGS HAPPEN IN CONNECTION WITH SLATE-WRITING, SUCH AS GETTING MESSAGES FROM HERE-LIVING PEOPLE, AND EVEN FROM FICTITIOUS PERSONS (CHARACTERS FROM FICTION), AND THAT THE WEIRD "EXPLANATIONS" INVOLVING THE SUBCONSCIOUS ONLY MAKE THE FOG DENSER THAN BEFORE. I DON'T THINK ANY EXPLANATION COVERS ALL THE FACTS, BUT THE ONE OFFERED BY SPIRITUALISM IS CERTAINLY THE BEST AND MOST ADEQUATE KNOWN TO US.

THERE'S A PRINCIPLE IN LOGIC WHICH FORBIDS MULTIPLYING CAUSES — INVOKING MORE CAUSES THAN ARE NECESSARY. BUT IT'S WELL TO KEEP IN MIND THAT A STOMACH ACHE IS CAUSED BY OTHER THINGS THAN GREEN APPLES — AND THAT "SPIRIT" RAPS ON A TABLE MAY BE CAUSED BY SPIRITS, OR BY ECTOPLASMIC FORMATIONS AND SUBCONSCIOUS CONTROL (PROBABLY), AND BY THREE OR FOUR ALTERNATIVE AGENCIES ALSO KNOWN TO PSYCHIC RESEARCH; AND THAT SLATE-WRITING AND A SCORE OF OTHER PSYCHIC PHENOMENA MAY BE OF SPIRIT ORIGIN AT ONE TIME, AND AGAIN FROM SOME OTHER SOURCE. AN IDENTICAL EFFECT, IN SHORT, MAY BE PRODUCED BY MORE THAN ONE CAUSE, AND THE GREEN-APPLE PRINCIPLE, WHILE A MOST WORTHY ONE, HAS ALSO PRODUCED A GREAT DEAL OF NONSENSE.

AND HERE, IF YOU HAVE PATIENCE, IS SOMETHING ELSE OF AT LEAST PASSING INTEREST. I PICK UP A "TRUMPET", WHICH IS ONLY A CONE MADE OF ALUMINUM OR OTHER LIGHT METAL, AND HOLD THE SMALL END TO MY EAR, AND THE MEDIUM PUTS ONE FINGER ON THE OTHER END. AND PRESENTLY A VOICE BEGINS TO TALK, APPARENTLY FROM WITHIN THE TRUMPET. WHEN IT FINISHES, THERE IS A CLICK LIKE THAT MADE BY HANGING UP A 'PHONE RECEIVER, AND THEN ANOTHER AND VERY DIFFERENT VOICE COMES ON; AND THEN

PERHAPS A THIRD AND FOURTH; ALL OF THEM DISTINCTIVE AND NATURAL AND SOMETIMES RECOGNIZABLE AS THOSE OF "DEAD" PERSONS KNOWN TO ME.

THIS IS A SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SCEPTIC TO TALK ABOUT SUB-CONSCIOUS VENTRILOQUISM (NEVER KNOWN ELSEWHERE), AND TO SAY THAT IT DOES NO GOOD TO TAPE THE LIPS OF THE MEDIUM OR STUFF HER MOUTH WITH COTTON (WHICH HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN DONE). AND EVERY PSYCHIC RESEARCH MAN KNOWS THAT THE LARYNX OF THE MEDIUM IS SOMETIMES INVOLVED (THOUGH NOT ALWAYS), AND ALSO THAT THE ALLEGED SPIRIT COMMUNICATORS SAY THAT THE VOCAL ORGANS OF THE MEDIUM ARE SOMETIMES (NOT ALWAYS) MADE USE OF. I SAY ONLY THAT THE "EXPLANATIONS" OF THE SCEPTIC COVER SOME CASES, AND PARTS OF SOME CASES SOMETIMES, BUT SEEM TO ME UTTERLY USELESS FOR THE PHENOMENON AS A WHOLE AND ITS FULLEST DEVELOPMENT. I ONLY ADD THIS IN, AS ONE MORE CASE WHERE ONLY THE SPIRITUALIST VIEWPOINT IS ANYWHERE NEAR ADEQUATE.

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I HAVE NOW MENTIONED, IN A VERY SKETCHY WAY, THREE OF THE SO-CALLED MAJOR PHENOMENA OF SPIRITISM. I DESCRIBED THEM ONLY TO ILLUSTRATE THE KIND OF EVIDENCE AVAILABLE, AND NOT WITH THE NOTION THAT MY TELLING ABOUT THEM WILL CONVINCE YOU, OR ANYONE ELSE, WHO HAS ONLY THAT TO GO ON. BUT THE STUDENT OF THESE MATTERS HAS BEFORE HIM AN ALMOST INEXHAUSTIBLE RANGE OF OTHER EVIDENTIAL HAPPENINGS. THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF BOOKS AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF "PSYCHIC" EXPERIENCES (WORTHLESS, INDIFFERENT OR VALUABLE), AND RECORDS OF LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC STUDIES, AND THEN THE WHOLE CONTRIBUTORY LITERATURE OF OCCULTISM (ALSO OF HIGHLY VARIABLE VALUE). IT IS ONLY THE PROFESSIONAL STUDENT, OF COURSE, WHO GOES INTO ALL THIS; THE AVERAGE INQUIRER INTO SPIRITUALISM HAS NEITHER TIME NOR DISPOSITION FOR IT. HE USUALLY ATTENDS A FEW "CIRCLES" OR SEANCES, MAY BE FORTUNATE IN GETTING GOOD RESULTS, AND SO KEEPS ON LEARNING A LITTLE AT A TIME. BUT WHEN SUCH A NEWCOMER IS OF CRITICAL AND INVESTIGATIVE TURN, AND DEMANDS EVIDENCE AND PROOF FROM THE START, THEN THE QUESTION OF AUTHORITY COMES UP. SUCH AND SUCH PERSONS ACCEPT SPIRITUALISM, AND TELL HIM IT IS ALL "TRUE", AND HE WANTS TO KNOW WHY — WHICH IS, OF COURSE, VERY COMMENDABLE. THEN THE SPIRITUALIST HAS TO AT LEAST INDICATE THE KIND OF EVIDENCE AVAILABLE, AND WHERE AND HOW IT CAN BE FOUND, BUT NATURALLY CANNOT HIMSELF PRODUCE ANY INSTANT AND CONCLUSIVE PROOF, AS IF IT WERE A PROBLEM IN GEOMETRY OR A DEMONSTRATION IN CHEMISTRY.

ALL THIS PART OF MY LETTER HAS BEEN CONCERNED WITH YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT EVIDENCE, AND TO IT I WOULD LIKE TO ADD JUST ONE MORE POINT, ABOUT THE VALUE OF PECULIAR AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCES. THE SCIENTIST PREFERS TO RECKON AS A FACT, ONLY THE HAPPENING WHICH CAN BE REPEATED, AND SHARED BY MORE THAN

ONE PERSON, AND USUALLY VERIFIED BY INSTRUMENTS. WHEN IT COMES TO THE EXPERIENCE WHICH CANNOT BE VERIFIED IN THAT WAY, OR BY REPETITION BY OTHER PERSONS, HE USUALLY RULES IT OUT AS BEING WITHOUT SCIENTIFIC VALUE. NEVERTHELESS, I SUPPOSE THE MOST MATERIALISTIC SCIENTIST DOES NOT DOUBT THE "GENUINENESS" OR "REALITY" OR "SIGNIFICANCE" OF HIS OWN STOMACH ACHE, WHEN OR IF HE HAS ONE, IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT HE CANNOT PROVE THIS REALITY TO ANYONE ELSE. I CAN TELL HIM THAT HE IS SUFFERING FROM DELUSIONS, OR AUTO-HYPNOSIS, OR IS SIMPLY A PLAIN-OR-FANCY LIAR, AND THAT HE HAS NO ACHE AT ALL BECAUSE I DO NOT FEEL IT AND HE CANNOT PROVE IT. ALL OF WHICH PROBABLY WILL NOT SHAKE HIS OWN CONVICTIONS IN THE LEAST.

THE SAME THING IS TRUE, WHEN ONE STOPS TO THINK ABOUT IT, OF ABOUT THREE-QUARTERS OR NINE-TENTHS OF OUR MENTAL LIVES. I CANNOT PROVE TO YOU THAT I AM ANGRY OR AFRAID, THAT I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT, THAT I REMEMBER A SCENE FROM MY BOYHOOD, THAT I LOVE OR HATE SOMEONE, THAT I LIKE PARSNIPS AND TETEST TOMATOES, OR THAT A BACH CANTATA SAYS SOMETHING THE JUKE BOX CANNOT. THE WHOLE EMOTIONAL LIFE, PAIN AND PLEASURE, FEAR AND DESIRE, IS "UNPROVABLE" AND NON-SCIENTIFIC, BUT NONE OF US DOUBTS ITS EXISTENCE, ITS IMPORTANCE, ITS "REALITY". WHATEVER EXISTS MAY BE SAID TO HAVE "REALITY" ON ITS OWN LEVEL OR IN ITS OWN DEGREE; EVEN A HALLUCINATION OR A DREAM EXISTS AS EXPERIENCE, THOUGH OUR INTERPRETATION OF THEIR MEANING MAY BE QUITE WRONG. THE POINT IS, THAT IF WE RULE OUT OF OUR THINKING EVERY FACT WHICH CANNOT BE "PROVED" BY SCIENTIFIC METHODS, WE WILL NOT HAVE MANY FACTS LEFT. THE TESTIMONY OF REPUTABLE MEDIUMS, PSYCHICS AND CLAIRVOYANTS IS WORTHY OF MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, AND CANNOT BE DISREGARDED SIMPLY BECAUSE THEIR EXPERIENCES ARE PECULIAR TO THEMSELVES.

CLAIRVOYANCE, HOWEVER, IS NOW ACCEPTED AS A FACT BY A LARGE NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATORS, AND ALEXIS CARREL GOES SO FAR AS TO CALL IT A FUNDAMENTAL DATUM OF SCIENCE, ALONG WITH TELEPATHY, WHICH HAS ALSO BECOME A RESPECTABLE BELIEF IN RECENT YEARS. IN A GREAT MANY CASES BOTH OF THESE CAN BE CHECKED ON BY EXPERIMENT, AND THIS IS AT LEAST SUGGESTS THAT RESULTS THAT CANNOT BE CHECKED ON MAY POSSIBLY BE VALID ALSO, SINCE THE POWER OR "FACULTY" INVOLVED IS A REAL ONE AND IS A VALID MEANS OF KNOWLEDGE. THERE REMAINS ALSO ONE OTHER RECOURSE, WHICH I SUPPOSE NO HOSTILE CRITIC HAS EVER YET EMPLOYED; WE CAN MAKE OURSELVES CLAIRVOYANT (MOST OF US) IN SOME WAY AND DEGREE OF OUR OWN, IF WE ARE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE IN TIME AND EFFORT. AFTER SOME MONTHS OR MORE LIKELY YEARS OF WORK WE MIGHT COME TO HAVE QUITE A NEW RESPECT FOR CLAIRVOYANT VISION, BUT THEN WE SHALL RECEIVE MUCH OF OUR OWN COIN BACK AGAIN, BECAUSE OTHER PEOPLE WILL INSIST THAT WHAT WE SEE IS PERSONAL AND UNPROVABLE, AND HENCE UTTERLY WORTHLESS TO ANYONE EXCEPT OURSELVES.

TO CONCLUDE THIS PART OF MY LETTER, THEN, I AM SORRY THAT NEITHER I NOR ANYONE ELSE CAN PUT BEFORE YOU AN IMMEDIATE AND EASY AND IRREFUTABLE PROOF OF SURVIVAL, AND COMMUNICATION, AND OF FACTS ABOUT LIFE ON THE OTHER PLANES. IF THAT WERE POSSIBLE, ALL THE IDEAS AND FACTS I HAVE BEEN WRITING ABOUT WOULD BE FAMILIAR TO EVERYONE AND ACCEPTED EVERYWHERE. BUT THERE ARE, AND ALWAYS HAVE BEEN MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO DO ACCEPT THEM, INCLUDING MANY WHO ARE HIGHLY EDUCATED OR SCIENTIFICALLY TRAINED (NOT ALWAYS THE SAME THING); AND ALL THE FACTS WHICH HAVE INFLUENCED THEM ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU ALSO, AND ARE QUITE AS ACCESSIBLE AS THOSE IN MANY OTHER DEPARTMENTS OF STUDY AND RESEARCH.

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MOST OF THE BASIC FACTS OF SPIRITISM COME TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PUBLIC BY MEANS OF THE SPIRITUALISTIC SEANCE. PROBABLY THE EASIEST DISTINCTION BETWEEN SPIRITISM AND SPIRITUALISM, IS SIMPLY THAT THE LATTER IS A RELIGION, BASED ON A COMBINATION OF BIBLICAL TEACHINGS AND SPIRITISTIC FACTS, AND HAS A CHURCH ORGANIZATION, WITH CENTERS IN ALL COUNTRIES AND MOST LARGE CITIES. NO ONE KNOWS HOW MANY SPIRITUALISTS THERE ARE, SINCE THERE ARE GREAT NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO ACCEPT SPIRITUALISTIC TEACHINGS IN ALL IMPORTANT RESPECTS, BUT DO NOT HOLD MEMBERSHIP IN AN ORGANIZATION. THE WORD SPIRITISM AS COMMONLY USED MEANS SIMPLY THE BELIEF IN SURVIVAL AND COMMUNICATION, THOUGH THERE IS ALSO A PHILOSOPHICAL USAGE WHICH DOES NOT CONCERN US HERE. PSYCHIC RESEARCH IS THE SYSTEMATIC, SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF "SUPERNORMAL" HAPPENINGS, AND THIS IS ALSO THE CHIEF BUSINESS OF PARAPSYCHOLOGY, OR METAPSYCHOLOGY, IN THEORY IF NOT ALWAYS IN PRACTICE. OCCULTISM IS "THE SCIENCE OF EXTENDED CONSCIOUSNESS" AND DEALS WITH METHODS OF TRAINING THE MIND IN CERTAIN HIGHER FORMS OF COGNITION, AND WITH THE FACTS DISCOVERED IN THAT WAY. MYSTICISM IS USUALLY IDENTIFIED WITH RELIGIOUS AND EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE, AND WITH INTUITION AND THE DIRECT APPROACH TO THE MYSTERIES OF GOD AND THE OVERSOUL. THESE TWO, OCCULTISM AND MYSTICISM, ARE RELATED SOMEWHAT AS IS A SCIENCE AND AN ART; THE FIRST USES RITUAL AND CEREMONIAL, AND IS A SYSTEMATIC, POINT-BY-POINT EXPLORATION OF THE HIGHER LEVELS OF CONSCIOUSNESS, WHEREAS THE MYSTIC TRIES TO CUT THROUGH DIRECT INTO THE VERY HIGHEST REGIONS OF EXPERIENCE. ILLUMINISM, FINALLY, IS AN INCLUSIVE TERM COVERING BOTH MYSTICISM AND OCCULTISM, AND CONSEQUENTLY ALL THE FACTS OF SPIRITUALISM, SINCE THIS LATTER IS ITSELF A FORM OF "OCCULT" BELIEF AND STUDY.

THE TERM OCCULT SHOULD NOT, OF COURSE, CONVEY THE IDEA OF MERE NONSENSE, QUACKERY AND SUPERSTITION; IT SIMPLY MEANS HIDDEN AWAY FROM COMMON KNOWLEDGE, OR PERHAPS FROM HUMAN KNOWLEDGE ENTIRELY; THE ADVANCED TECHNIQUES OF THE SCIENTIST, THE MYSTERIOUS SKILL AND INSPIRATION OF THE ARTIST AND THE WAYS OF GENIUS ALL ARE OCCULT TO THE COMMON MAN; AND EVERY SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY IS A NEW OCCULT ADVENTURE. BUT IN COMMON USAGE OCCULT IS APPLIED TO METHODS AND FACTS WHICH

"ORTHODOX" OR "OFFICIAL" SCIENCE DOES NOT EMPLOY, SUCH AS CLAIRVOYANT INVESTIGATION, ASTRAL PROJECTION, AND THE USE OF SYMBOLS AND RITUAL TO PRODUCE CERTAIN PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITIONS AND EVOKE DEFINITE FORMS OF FORCE. THE TRAINED OCCULTIST CLAIMS TO BE JUST AS SCIENTIFIC AS HIS MORE ORTHODOX BROTHERS, BUT THE LATTER REGARD HIM, AS A RULE, WITH DEEP AND NOT WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED SUSPICION. BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN OCCULT AND "ORTHODOX" SCIENCE IS A VERY MISTY AND WAVERING ONE, AS IS WELL UNDERSTOOD BY EVERYONE WHO HAS HAD SOME BASIC INSTRUCTION IN BOTH FIELDS — HOWEVER ABSURD THIS MAY SEEM TO THE AVERAGE SCIENTIFIC WORKER. INCIDENTALLY, THE TERM ILLUMINISM IS MUCH BETTER THAN THE LOOSE USE OF OCCULTISM, AND SUPPLIES A NEED IN CURRENT TERMINOLOGY.

I DO NOT WANT TO GO TOO FAR ASTRAY FROM THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THESE LETTERS, BUT IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO NAME AND PERHAPS BRIEFLY DEFINE THE PRINCIPAL PHENOMENA COMMON TO SPIRITISM, SPIRITUALISM, PSYCHIC RESEARCH AND PARAPSYCHOLOGY. IT MAY HELP US TO UNDERSTAND THE RANGE AND COMPLEXITY OF OUR QUESTION ABOUT DATA AND EVIDENCE AND PROOF. LET US FIRST SET DOWN WHAT ARE CALLED PHYSICAL OR OBJECTIVE PHENOMENA, PRODUCED BY "EXTRA-PHYSICAL" FORCE (EPF), THAT IS, BY FORCES NOT YET IDENTIFIABLE BY CONTEMPORARY SCIENCE. THESE INCLUDE:

1. CONCUSSIVE PHENOMENA, COMMONLY CALLED RAPS, BUT INCLUDING ALL SUCH SOUNDS AS CREAKS, SNAPPING, TICKING, SCRAPING, TAPS, KNOCKS, AND SOMETIMES VERY HEAVY AND POWERFUL BLOWS. SUCH SOUNDS OFTEN APPEAR MEANINGLESS, BUT ON OTHER OCCASIONS WILL SPELL OUT MESSAGES AND ARE CLEARLY CONTROLLED BY SOME INTELLIGENCE.

2. TELEKINESIS, OR THE MOVEMENT OF OBJECTS WITHOUT ANY VISIBLE OR KNOWN CONTACT.

3. LEVITATION, A FORM OF TELEKINESIS, CONSISTING IN THE LIFTING OF OBJECTS, INCLUDING THE HUMAN BODY, WITHOUT KNOWN CONTACT.

4. PARAKINESIS, OR THE MOVEMENT OF OBJECTS WITH WHICH THE OBSERVER IS IN CONTACT, BUT BY SOME FORCE BEYOND HIS CONTROL.

5. PRECIPITATION, SOMETIMES USED TO INCLUDE INDEPENDENT OR "DIRECT" WRITING, DRAWING OR PAINTING, WHETHER ON SLATES, PAPER, CANVAS OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL. SLATE WRITING IS ALSO CALLED PSYCHOGRAPHY. THE HAND-WRITING ON THE WALL, OF BIBLICAL STORY, IS SOMETIMES CITED AS AN ANCIENT EXAMPLE OF THIS PHENOMENON.

6. DIRECT VOICE, WHETHER THROUGH THE "TRUMPET" OR INDEPENDENT, IN DARK OR LIGHT, WITH OR WITHOUT CONTACT AND LEVITATION.

7. MATERIALIZATION, IN MANY FORMS AND DEGREES, AS OF HANDS, FACES, COMPLETE BODIES, AND OF MATERIAL OBJECTS.

8. APPORT, OR THE BRINGING INTO A SEANCE ROOM OF SOME OBJECT, SUCH AS A STONE, A JEWEL, A LETTER, EVEN A LIVING BIRD OR ANIMAL, OFTEN IDENTIFIABLE AS COMING FROM SOME REMOTE PLACE.

9. PSYCHIC OR SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY. SPIRIT FACES AND FORMS OFTEN APPEAR ON PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES. A GREAT DEAL OF WORK HAS ALSO BEEN DONE ON THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF THOUGHT-FORMS WHERE THE PLATE IS HELD ON THE FOREHEAD OR TOP OF THE HEAD, OR BETWEEN THE HANDS.

10. MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA, SUCH AS ALTERATION OF THE WEIGHT, HEIGHT, AND FACIAL APPEARANCE OF THE MEDIUM; PERFUMES AND ODOURS OF ALL KINDS; LIGHTS OF MANY KINDS; CURRENTS OF AIR AND "WINDS", MUSICAL SOUNDS; CHANGES OF TEMPERATURE; PARTIAL OR COMPLETE DEMATERIALIZATION.

PROBABLY THE MOST STRIKING OF ALL THESE IS MATERIALIZATION, WHEN A GOOD EXAMPLE CAN BE HAD, UNDER PROPER CONDITIONS FOR OBSERVATION. COMPLETE HUMAN FORMS WILL SOMETIMES APPEAR, IN GOOD LIGHT, AND TALK AND BEHAVE LIKE NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS. THE SUBSTANCE CALLED ECTOPLASM IS INVOLVED IN THEIR PRODUCTION; THIS IS AN ORGANIC SUBSTANCE DRAWN FROM THE BODIES OF THE MEDIUM AND OTHER PERSONS PRESENT, AND THE PROCESS HAS BEEN STUDIED IN DETAIL UNDER LABORATORY CONDITIONS BY SCHRENCK VON NOTZING, GUSTAVE GELEY, AND MANY OTHER INVESTIGATORS, SOME OF WHOM WILL BE NAMED LATER, AND MOST OF WHOM WERE NOT SPIRITUALISTS.

UNDER MENTAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL PHENOMENA SHOULD BE INCLUDED CLAIRAUDIENCE AND CLAIRVOYANCE, AND ALL THE PHASES OF TRANCE MEDIUMSHIP. THE XSUBJECT OF TRANCE IS IMMENSELY COMPLICATED, EVEN FROM A PURELY MEDICAL STANDPOINT, AND ONE MEDICAL DICTIONARY LISTS MORE THAN SIXTY PHASES OR KINDS. CLAIRVOYANCE INCLUDES EXTENDED VISION IN BOTH SPACE, AND TIME — PAST AND FUTURE — AND THE POWER TO SEE PERSONS AND OBJECTS ON THE ASTRAL LEVELS; AND MOST FORMS OF DIVINATION DEPEND ON IT IN SOME DEGREE. CLAIRAUDIENCE, OR EXTENDED HEARING, ALSO EXISTS IN MANY DEGREES AND FORMS; THE WORDS OF THE COMMUNICATOR (THE SPIRIT) MAY BE HEARD AS IF SPOKEN ALOUD OR WHISPERED, AND MAY SEEM EXTERNAL OR AS IF WITHIN THE BRAIN. PSYCHOMETRY IS "ARTICLE READING"; THE PSYCHIC GIVES THE PAST HISTORY OF AN OBJECT, OR DESCRIBES PERSONS OR SCENES ASSOCIATED WITH IT. AS TO TELEPATHY, IT MAY PROVE TO BE A FORM OF CLAIRVOYANCE BUT ITS LAWS ARE STILL VERY OBSCURE. THE COMMON ABBREVIATION ESP (FOR EXTENDED SENSORY PERCEPTION) IS OFTEN USED TO COVER ALL FORMS OF SUPERNORMAL KNOWLEDGE OR PERCEPTION.

IN ADDITION, ONE COULD LIST SUCH SUBJECTS AS DREAMS, PREMONITIONS, PSYCHO-THERAPY (HEALING), ASTRAL PROJECTION, DOWSING (WATER FINDING), OBSESSION AND POSSESSION, HAUNTINGS, POLTERGEISTS, GHOSTS, ELEMENTALS, AND MANY OTHERS, ALL OF

THEM CAPABLE OF VARIOUS SUB-HEADS, AND DISCUSSED IN MANY BOOKS AND ARTICLES.

NOW, ALL THESE ENUMERATIONS OF OCCULT STUDIES MAY APPEAR VERY FORMIDABLE TO THE NEWCOMER, IF HE HAS HAD NO PREVIOUS CONTACT WITH SUCH SUBJECTS; AND THEY CERTAINLY IMPLY MANY ALMOST INCREDIBLE HAPPENINGS, AND MAY SEEM LIKE PAGES LIFTED FROM SOME GRIMOIRE OF MEDIAEVAL MAGIC. BUT LET ME REPEAT, THAT IT IS ONLY TO ILLUSTRATE THIS EXTENT AND COMPLEXITY THAT I SET THEM DOWN AT ALL, AND THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF BOOKS, GOOD AND BAD, LEARNED AND FOOLISH, WHICH DEAL WITH THEM, IN CASE YOU ARE INTERESTED. IT SEEMS TO BE A RULE WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, THAT THE "COMPLETE SCEPTIC" HAS NOT READ A SINGLE ONE, (OR ELSE HAS LIGHTED ON SOME WORK WHICH IS IGNORANT, BIASED AND EXTRAVAGANT EITHER PRO OR CONTRA), AND SO HAS COME TO A TOO-HASTY CONCLUSION. AT THE OTHER EXTREME, TO READ THE WHOLE LITERATURE OF OCCULTISM IS THE WORK OF A LIFETIME. IF YOU WANT TO COME TO SOME TEMPERATE AND REASONABLE OPINION THE MOST PRACTICABLE PLAN, PROBABLY, IS TO READ A HALF DOZEN OR SO OF THE MORE AUTHORITATIVE WORKS, AND THEN, AS OPPORTUNITY OFFERS, OBSERVE SOME OF THE PHENOMENA FOR YOURSELF. IT IS USUALLY BETTER TO DO MOST OF YOUR READING FIRST, AND THEN, IF YOU WISH TO GO FURTHER, SELECT MEDIUMS OF GOOD REPUTATION AND IN WHOM YOU FEEL REASONABLE CONFIDENCE. YOUR ATTITUDE NEED NOT BE HOSTILE, NOR YET WHOLLY CREDULOUS. DO NOT TRY TO TRICK THE MEDIUM, OR TO IMPOSE TEST CONDITIONS (UNLESS ARRANGED FOR); SIMPLY OBSERVE WHAT HAPPENS, CONSIDER EVERYTHING WITH AN OPEN MIND, AND BE CONTENT TO LEARN LITTLE BY LITTLE. IN A "MESSAGE CIRCLE" YOU MAY ENCOUNTER A GOOD DEAL OF "PSYCHOLOGIZING", AND SHREWD GUESSING, EITHER DELIBERATE OR SUBCONSCIOUS, AND TELEPATHY IS OFTEN TO BE RECKONED WITH, AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE GIVEN THE PSYCHIC; AND IN THE SEANCE ROOM THERE IS OFTEN WHAT IS CALLED "UNCONSCIOUS" AS WELL AS CONSCIOUS FRAUD. YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DISENTANGLE ALL THESE FACTORS IN EVERY CASE, BUT YOU CAN OBSERVE, AND READ, AND LEARN — AND WITH HONESTY AND PATIENCE YOU WILL ACQUIRE, IN THE END, SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE ACCESSIBLE TO MANKIND.

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AS HAS ALREADY BEEN POINTED OUT, SPIRIT COMMUNICATION TAKES PLACE IN MANY WAYS: BY A VOICE AUDIBLE TO EVERYONE PRESENT, BY VOICE HEARD ONLY BY THE MEDIUM, OR IMAGES OR SYMBOLS SEEN BY HIM ONLY, BY MESSAGES WRITTEN "DIRECT" ON SLATES OR PAPER OR OTHER SUBSTANCE, BY THE CONTROLLED OR "AUTOMATIC" WRITING OF A PSYCHIC, BY CONVERSATION WITH MATERIALIZED SPIRIT FORMS, AND BY THE FAMILIAR METHOD OF RAPS OR OTHER SOUNDS GIVING MESSAGES IN CODE. THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO ADMIT THAT SOME KIND OF UNSEEN INTELLIGENCE WAS COMMUNICATING, BUT WHO HOLD THAT THE CASE FOR SPIRITISM IS NOT PROVED UNLESS THE IDENTITY OF THE COMMUNICATOR CAN BE ESTABLISHED. IT IS ARGUED THAT ALL THE INFORMATION MIGHT BE PICKED UP TELEPATHICALLY, AND THAT

THE WRITING, VOICES AND SO ON ARE SOMEHOW PRODUCED BY THE SUPERNORMAL POWERS OF HERE-LIVING PEOPLE, THE MEDIUM AND SITTERS.

PROOF OF IDENTITY RESEMBLES SOME OF THE OTHER QUESTIONS WE HAVE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT; WHAT IS SATISFACTORY TO ONE PERSON AND IN ONE INSTANCE MAY BE THOUGHT LACKING FOR ANOTHER. IF SOME ONE CALLS YOU ON THE 'PHONE, AND SAYS THAT HE IS AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS, YOU WOULD IDENTIFY HIM BY HIS TONE AND MANNER (IF YOU COULD REMEMBER THESE), AND THEN BY HIS REFERENCE TO FACTS AND PERSONS AND EVENTS KNOWN TO BOTH OF YOU. IF YOU COULD NOT PLACE HIM, AND HE WAS ANXIOUS TO CONVINCE YOU, HE WOULD TRY TO RECALL SOME SMALL INTIMATE DETAIL NO ONE ELSE WOULD KNOW ABOUT; AND THIS IS THE KIND OF IDENTIFICATION WHICH IS VERY COMMON IN SPIRITUALISTIC MESSAGES. BUT SUPPOSE SOME LARGE SUM OF MONEY WERE INVOLVED, OR AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS AFFAIR OR LEGAL ISSUE, AND THAT YOU WERE SCEPTICAL AND SUSPICIOUS OF TRICKERY. IN SUCH A CASE A COMPLETE IDENTIFICATION, BY TELEPHONE ONLY, MIGHT BE VERY DIFFICULT OR EVEN IMPOSSIBLE.

WHEN WE COME TO THE AVERAGE SEANCE OR "CIRCLE" COMMUNICATION, WE HAVE ALL THESE DIFFICULTIES AND MORE BESIDE. FOR ONE THING, YOU ARE NOW ENGAGED IN WHAT AMOUNTS TO A PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPERIMENT, AND YOUR MENTAL ATTITUDE (PERHAPS VERY CRITICAL) AFFECTS THE RESULTS. ALSO, THE MINDS OF OTHER PEOPLE (THE MEDIUM, AND PERHAPS OTHERS PRESENT) ARE ALSO INVOLVED, IN SOME WAY AND TO SOME DEGREE. AND OFTEN THERE IS A COMPLEX OF CONDITIONS ON THE "OTHER SIDE" TO BE RECKONED WITH; THE COMMUNICATOR MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THEM HIMSELF, AND MAY HAVE TO EMPLOY A SPIRIT MEDIUM. THERE ARE CASES ON RECORD WHERE AS MANY AS SEVEN PERSONALITIES HAVE HAD TO COOPERATE TO GET A MESSAGE THROUGH IN INTELLIGIBLE FORM. WHATEVER MEDIUM YOU CONSULT WILL HAVE HIS (OR HER) LIMITATIONS, AND THESE MAY SHUT OFF SOME COMMUNICATORS ENTIRELY. ADD TO ALL THIS A TOUCH OF HUMAN NATURE, OF IMPATIENCE OVER IDENTIFICATION, AND OVER OUR DOUBTS AND STUPIDITY WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID AND PERHAPS ONLY A FEW MOMENTS TO SAY IT IN. WE ACT SOMEWHAT IN THAT WAY OURSELVES, WHEN WE PUT IN A LONG DISTANCE 'PHONE CALL, AND THE SERVICE IS BAD AND THE OTHER PERSON CAN'T IDENTIFY US. SO MANY OF THESE CONDITIONS ARE UNKNOWN TO US, OR SO MUCH BEYOND OUR CONTROL, THAT ANY INTELLIGENT COMMUNICATION AT ALL SEEMS ASTONISHING.

AND YET, IN SPITE OF ALL THIS, WE HAVE THOUSANDS OF PAGES OF SEANCE RECORDS WHERE EVERY POSSIBLE PROOF OF IDENTITY HAS BEEN GIVEN, SUCH AS NAMES, DATES, ADDRESSES, MANNER OF DEATH, INCIDENTS OF EVERY KIND, DESCRIPTIONS OF PLACES, OBJECTS, TRINKETS, LETTERS, ENDLESS INTIMATE DETAILS. THE FORTY-ODD VOLUMES OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH CONTAIN AN IMMENSE MASS OF SUCH DATA, AS DO THE RECORDS OF THE ENGLISH SOCIETY, AND OF NUMEROUS OTHER RESEARCH BODIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. CRITICS WHO RAISE FATAL OBJEC-

TIONS TO SPIRITISM OVER THIS MATTER OF IDENTIFICATION ARE EITHER IGNORANT OF THE MASS OF MATERIAL, OR DELIBERATELY IGNORE IT. THEY IGNORE, TOO, THE NEAR-CONCLUSIVE TESTS BY WHAT IS CALLED CROSS-CORRESPONDENCE, UNANSWERABLE BY ANY HYPOTHESIS OF TELEPATHY, OR COINCIDENCE OR FRAUD.

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A GOOD MANY OF MY CORRESPONDENTS, TOO, WANT TO KNOW HOW SPIRITUALISM, OR SPIRITISTIC IDEAS FIT IN WITH THE TEACHINGS OF ORTHODOX PROTESTANT CHURCHES. THERE IS, OF COURSE, AN "OLD-FASHIONED" AND RATHER NAIVE RELIGIONISM WITH WHICH THEY DO NOT SQUARE VERY WELL. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO THINK EACH OF US IS DEFINITELY "SAVED" OR "LOST" THROUGH SOME PARTICULAR ARTICLE OF FAITH, AND THAT AFTER DEATH WE ARE AT ONCE WHISKED OFF TO SOME PLACE OF REWARD OR PUNISHMENT; OR PERHAPS THIS EVENT IS DEFERRED UNTIL SOME GREAT DAY OF JUDGEMENT. OTHERS BELIEVE THAT HUMAN CHARACTER IS SOMEHOW CHANGED BY DEATH, SO THAT CERTAIN FORTUNATE ONES LOSE ALL THEIR FAULTS IN A MOMENT; AND SOME CONFIDENTLY EXPECT TO COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF SAINTS AND ARCHANGELS, AND EVEN OF GOD HIMSELF. THE FACTS AS THEY ARE KNOWN TO US DO NOT BEAR OUT IDEAS OF THIS NATURE.

ON THE OTHER HAND SPIRITUALISM (THE RELIGIOUS FORM OF SPIRITISM) IS SAID TO BE IN COMPLETE HARMONY WITH THE BIBLE, AND CERTAINLY BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS CONTAIN MANY INCIDENTS AND TEACHINGS WHICH ARE EXPLICABLE FROM THE SPIRITUALISTIC POINT OF VIEW, BUT HARDLY SO FROM ANY OTHER. SPIRITUALISTS BELIEVE THAT HUMAN CHARACTER IS NOT CHANGED IN ANY WAY BY DEATH; WE SIMPLY MOVE ON INTO NEW CONDITIONS, AND HAVE ANOTHER BODY WHICH IS STILL MATERIAL, BUT OF A MUCH FINER FORM OF MATTER; AND LIVE IN WORLDS WHICH WILL SEEM AS SOLID AND SUBSTANTIAL AS THIS PRESENT ONE. THERE IS A GREAT DEAL FOR US TO LEARN ON THE OTHER SIDE, BUT THERE WILL BE TIME AND OPPORTUNITY, AND FREEDOM FROM PHYSICAL PAIN AND OTHER HINDRANCES OF EARTH LIFE. OUR POSITION AND STATUS WILL DEPEND ON OUR CHARACTER; EVIL ACTS HERE BRING BAD EFFECTS, JUST AS NATURALLY AND SURELY AS PUTTING ONE'S HAND IN A FIRE RESULTS IN A BURN. THIS IS A MATTER OF THE OPERATION OF NATURAL LAWS, AND NOT A PUNISHMENT INFLICTED BY A SUPREME BEING.

PEOPLE OFTEN RAISE THE POINT, THAT WHAT WE CALL MORALITY SEEMS TO BE A MATTER OF CUSTOM AND BELIEF, SO THAT WHAT IS "RIGHT" IN ONE COUNTRY OR AGE MAY BE "WRONG" IN SOME OTHER PLACE AND TIME. ONE ANSWER TO THIS IS, THAT LIFE AND THE UNIVERSE ARE IN PROCESS OF EVOLUTION, AND THAT THIS EVOLUTION HAS DIRECTION AND IS NOT MERE CHAOTIC MOTION AND CHANGE. THERE IS SOMETHING AKIN TO A PLAN AND GOAL IN THESE PROCESSES, THE UNIVERSE APPEARS TO BE GOING SOMEWHERE (SO TO SPEAK), AND FROM OUR STANDPOINT THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO A "MORAL PRINCIPLE." ANY ACT, THEREFORE, WHICH HARMONIZES WITH THIS TENDENCY OR PRINCIPLE IS "GOOD" AND "RIGHT", SINCE IT AGREES WITH THE

LAWS OF NATURE AND DOES NOT OPPOSE ITS OPERATIONS. WHAT WE CALL EVIL EXISTS, SIMPLY BECAUSE ANYTHING WHICH IS EVOLVING IS IMPERFECT AND INCOMPLETE. THERE IS PASSIVE EVIL, WHICH IS THE INERTIA OF BOTH MATTER AND SPIRIT AND THE IMPERFECTION OF THEM; AND THERE IS ACTIVE AND POSITIVE EVIL, WHICH CONSISTS OF UNBALANCED OR UNCOMPENSATED FORCES. OUR OWN BUSINESS AS INDIVIDUALS IS, CONSTANTLY TO TRY TO DISCOVER THE RIGHT AND BEST WAY TO ACT, AND TO BE CRITICAL OF EVEYTHING WE DO AND TRY TO IMPROVE IT; TO LIVE UP TO OUR HIGHEST IDEALS, BUT ALSO TO IMPROVE THE IDEALS THEMSELVES BY LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES. IN A WISER AND BETTER LIFE EACH OF US WILL JUDGE HIMSELF, AND WE ARE "PUNISHED" BY OUR OWN REGRETS, AND BY THE FACT THAT IGNORANCE AND EVIL ACTS HOLD US BACK, SOMETIMES IN PLACES AND COMPANY OF A VERY UNPLEASANT SORT. GOOD WILL AND ASPIRATION AND EFFORT ARE THE MEANS OF "SALVATION", IN ALL THE WORLDS.

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THERE IS A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF OCCULT ORDERS, OR SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE THEOSOPHISTS, ROSICRUCIANS, CHRISTIAN MYSTICS, "ARCANE SCIENCE", AND ESOTERIC QABALISTS, AND ALSO MANY FORMS OF YOGA AND HINDU MYSTICISM, AND THE STRONG BUT SOMEWHAT INDEFINABLE MOVEMENT OF "NEW THOUGHT", INCLUDING MANY CULTS WHICH PRACTICE VARIOUS FORMS OF MENTAL OR SPIRITUAL HEALING. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CENTERS ABOUT SUCH MEANS OF HEALING, AND ALL OCCULT SOCIETIES PRACTICE IT IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. THEOSOPHISTS, ROSICRUCIANS, QABALISTS, AND MANY SPIRITUALISTS AND MANY MINOR CULTS ACCEPT REINCARNATION, AND THE FIRST THREE OF THESE AT ANY RATE MAKE IT A CARDINAL POINT OF THEIR TEACHINGS.

REINCARNATION, BY THE WAY, OF COURSE, DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE HUMAN SOUL OR SPIRIT EVER ENTERS AN ANIMAL BODY. PERHAPS I CAN PUT INTO A FEW SHORT PARAGRAPHS A KIND OF OUTLINE OF WHAT IS CALLED ESOTERIC SCIENCE, OR AT LEAST OF THE CARDINAL POINTS OF ESOTERIC TEACHINGS. ALL OF THE GREAT ORDERS OR SCHOOLS ACCEPT MUCH THE SAME DOCTRINE IN ESSENTIALS, THOUGH THEY DIFFER A GREAT DEAL IN THE TERMS THEY USE, AND IN DETAILS AND MODES OF EXPRESSION.

THE GOD OF ESOTERIC TEACHING IS THE GREAT UNMANIFEST; IT IS A LIMITLESS SEA OF LATENT FORCE—LIKE THE PRIMAL MAGNETIC FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC SPECUALTION. THIS IS SAID TO GIVE RISE TO ENERGY, WHICH IS AN OUT-POURING OF THE LATENT POWER, AND TAKES THE FORM OF ENERGY UNITS, WHICH IN TURN GIVE RISE TO ELECTRONS, ATOMS AND MOLECULES. ONE STAGE OR DEGREE OF OUTPOURING GIVES BIRTH TO ANOTHER, AND IN THIS WAY THE DIFFERENT PLANES OR LEVELS OF BEING ARE CREATED, WITH A DIFFERENT CONDITION OF MATTER ON EACH (COMPARE OUR SOLID, LIQUID, GASEOUS, ELECTRONIC, RADIANT). CERTAIN OF THE ENERGY UNITS BUILD BODIES FOR THEMSELVES, AND FROM THESE ARISE STILL OTHER BODIES, A SERIES OF THEM, UNTIL FINALLY THE DENSE EARTH BODY IS PRODUCED. SO MAN IS CONSIDERED AS BEING NOT MERELY BODY AND SOUL, BUT AS HAVING SEVEN BODIES, EACH ON A DIFFERENT

LEVEL OF MATTER, OR DIFFERENT PLANE.

AFTER THE SEVENTH OR EARTH BODY IS FORMED, THE "SPARK" (MONAD) BEGINS TO DEVELOP IT IN COMPLEXITY, BUILDING IT UP INTO THE ORGANISMS AS KNOWN TO OUR PHYSICAL SCIENCES. NEXT IT GOES TO WORK ON THE "UPPER" OR EARLIER BODIES IN A SIMILAR WAY, SOMEWHAT AS ONE MIGHT GO BACK TO FILL IN A SERIES OF PRELIMINARY SKETCHES OR OUTLINES. THIS PROCESS IS SOMETIMES CALLED DEVELOPMENT, OR UNFOLDMENT, AND IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPEARANCE OF SUCH POWERS AS CLAIRVOYANCE AND TELEPATHY. AS HAS BEEN SAID, THESE BODIES EXIST IN DIFFERENT GRADES OF MATTER, AND SO ON DIFFERENT "PLANES". IF WE CALL OUR EARTH PLANE THE FIRST,

THE SECOND IS THE LOWER ASTRAL OR PSYCHIC, THE PLANE OF THE INSTINCTS AND PASSIONS,

THE THIRD IS THE UPPER ASTRAL, OR PLANE OF HIGHER EMOTIONS AND DESIRES,

THE FOURTH IS THE LOWER MENTAL PLANE, OF CONCRETE THOUGHT AND MEMORY,

THE FIFTH IS THE UPPER MENTAL, OR PLANE OF ABSTRACT THINKING.

AT THIS LEVEL THE INDIVIDUAL LIFE BECOMES MERGED IN THE LIFE OF THE MONAD OR DIVINE SPARK, AND THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH PLANES ARE IN THE VERY FIRST STAGES OF DIVINE MANIFESTATION. I HAVE NUMBERED THEM "UPWARD", BUT, OF COURSE, THE OUTPOURING OF DIVINE ENERGY IS "DOWNWARD", THROUGH THE VARIOUS PLANES AND BODIES AND STAGES OF EMANATION. IT IS, IF YOU LIKE, SOMETHING LIKE THE FLOW OF A RIVER, WHICH MAY BE DIFFERENT IN APPEARANCE AT EVERY MILE, AND FLOW THROUGH CHANGING LANDSCAPES, BUT ISSUES FROM ONE MAIN FOUNTAIN HEAD AND KEEPS ITS IDENTITY THROUGHOUT ITS COURSE.

THE WORD PLANE REPRESENTS TWO IDEAS (1) A CONDITION OF CONSCIOUSNESS, AND (2) A CONDITION OR WORLD OF MATTER IN WHICH THAT CONSCIOUSNESS WILL "WORK". IT IS EASY ENOUGH TO UNDERSTAND THE FIRST OF THESE, SINCE EXAMPLES OR ANALOGIES ARE ALL ABOUT US. NO ANT, FOR INSTANCE, EVER SAW A MAN; THE FISH HAS NO AWARENESS OF THE BIRD OR OF THE WORLD IN WHICH IT LIVES; EACH EXISTS ONLY IN ITS OWN SPHERE OR LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS. BUT THEN, EVERY SCHOOLBOY KNOWS THAT WE CAN SEE ONLY A NARROW RANGE OF "COLORS" AND HEAR ONLY A FEW VIBRATIONS OF THE SPECTRUM OF SOUND, AND SO LIVE ON OUR OWN PLANE AS MUCH AS ANT AND BIRD AND FISH. THERE ARE VAST RANGES OF MATTER OR ENERGY WHERE OUR SENSES DO NOT FUNCTION, AND WE HAVE NO LOGICAL RIGHT TO ASSUME THAT PERSONS AND OBJECTS DO NOT EXIST IN SUCH REGIONS; IN FACT, WE FIND THAT THEY DO EXIST, WHEN WE LEARN HOW TO EXTEND THE NORMAL OPERATIONS OF PERCEPTION. BUT OUR POINT HERE IS, THAT THERE IS ALWAYS AN INNER PLANE OF CONSCIOUSNESS, AND AN OUTER PLANE

(OR KIND OR DENSITY) OF MATTER WHICH CORRESPONDS WITH IT, AND IN WHICH THE CONSCIOUSNESS CAN FUNCTION.

NOW, WHEN A PERSON IS AFFECTED BY SOME STRONG EMOTION, SUCH AS FEAR OR HATE, HE IS FUNCTIONING ON THE LOWER ASTRAL PLANE. HE IS ONLY PARTLY THERE, AND CANNOT SEE THE EFFECTS HE IS PRODUCING ON THE MATTER OF THAT PLANE, BUT AN EXPERT CLAIRVOYANT WOULD SEE COLORS AND SHAPES AND SYMBOLS PRODUCED BY HIS EMOTIONS. IF HE IS ABSORBED IN MATHEMATICS, OR IN MUSIC OR POETRY (AS EXAMPLES ONLY) HE IS ON A DIFFERENT AND "HIGHER" LEVEL, AND IS ALSO AFFECTING MATTER OF A SPECIAL GRADE OF REFINEMENT, THOUGH HE DOES NOT HIMSELF SEE THESE EFFECTS. HE MAY HAVE BUILT HIMSELF A BODY OR "VEHICLE" OF THIS MATERIAL, JUST AS HE HAS A DENSE BODY FOR OPERATING ON THIS EARTH-PLANE OF DENSE MATTER. SUCH IDEAS MAY SEEM STRANGE AT FIRST, BUT THEY ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO GRAPS, AND ON REFLECTION WILL NOT SEEM UNREASONABLE.

THE FOUR LOWER PLANES OR STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS — THE PHYSICAL BODY, THE PASSIONS, THE HIGHER EMOTIONS, AND THE INTELLECT — FORM THE PERSONALITY; THOSE ABOVE THESE FORM THE INDIVIDUALITY. THE LATTER BUILDS UP THE PERSONALITY IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE EXPERIENCE. IT PUTS OUT ITS ENERGEY OR "RAY" UNTIL AN EARTH BODY AND MIND ARE FORMED, AND THEN ORGANIZES THE BODIES AND MINDS ON THE SECOND AND THIRD AND FOURTH LEVELS. AFTER A WHILE IT WITHDRAWS OR IS DRIVEN OUT OF THE DENSE BODY, AND THIS IS WHAT WE CALL DEATH, BUT IT CONTINUES TO LIVE ON THE ASTRAL LEVEL FOR A TIME. BUT HERE, TOO, COMES DEATH, THAT IS, A CHANGE INTO ANOTHER BODY AND STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS (MORE PROPERLY A RE-BIRTH), AND THIS IS REPEATED AS THE SPIRIT MOVES UPWARD OUT OF THE LOWER PLANES. AFTER THE LAST DEATH (OR BIRTH) OCCURS, THE INDIVIDUALITY IS READY, IN ITS OWN GOOD TIME AND IN ACCORD WITH NATURAL LAWS, TO REPEAT THE PROCESS AND MANIFEST AGAIN IN A DENSE BODY AND A PERSONALITY — AND IT IS THIS ACT WHICH IS CALLED REINCARNATION.

IT IS THIS INDIVIDUALITY WHICH IS SOMETIMES CALLED THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGEL (THOUGH SPIRITUALISTS USE THE TERM DIFFERENTLY), OR YECHIDAH, OR THE DIVINE AUGOEIDES. THE PERSONALITY IS SIMPLY ITS MANIFESTATION IN AND THROUGH DENSER GRADES OF MATTER OR MATTER-ENERGY. WHAT THE OCCULTIST (OR ILLUMINIST) TRIES TO DO, THROUGH MEDITATION AND RITUAL, IS TO UNITE THE LOWER BRAIN CONSCIOUSNESS WITH THE HIGHER, AND SO TO MAKE USE OF THE "SUBCONSCIOUS" AND "SUPERCONSCIOUS" POWERS AND KNOWLEDGE. PRESENT DAY PSYCHOLOGY, IN THE OCCIDENT, MAY NOT MAKE MUCH USE OF THE TERM SUPERCONSCIOUS, BUT IT DOES RECOGNIZE THAT CONSCIOUSNESS IS THE "TIP OF THE ICEBERG", OR ABOUT 1/7 OR 1/8 OF THE WHOLE MIND, AND THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF "SUBMERGED" POWERS IS LEGITIMATE AND PRACTICABLE.

ALL THIS IS VERY ANCIENT TEACHING, WHICH WOULD FILL HUNDREDS OF PAGES IF PRESENTED IN ITS FULLNESS. WHAT WE

CALL SPIRITUALISM IS ONLY A PHASE OR ASPECT OF IT, IN RELATION TO CHRISTIAN TEACHINGS. BUT WHAT HAS BEEN SAID MAY HELP US TO GRASP A LITTLE FURTHER HOW VAST AND COMPLEX, AND ALSO HOW WORTHY OF LEARNING AND REVERENCE, ARE THE IDEAS WE HAVE HERE SO SCANTILY OUTLINED.

IN THE INTEREST OF ACCURACY I MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE SPIRITUALIST CHURCH DOES NOT OFFICIALLY SUBSCRIBE TO ALL THESE TEACHINGS OF THE ANCIENT WISDOM, OR ESOTERIC SCIENCE. SPIRITUALISTS ARE CONTENT WITH A SIMPLER OUTLOOK AND IN MANY WAYS CLING CLOSE TO AN ORTHODOX RELIGIONISM. THE OCCULTIST HAS NO GREAT QUARREL WITH THIS, AND AGREES WITH SPIRITUALIST TEACHINGS ABOUT THE AFTER LIFE, BUT HOLDS THAT HIS OWN OUTLOOK IS MORE INCLUSIVE, AND THAT THE SPIRITUALIST PRESENTS ONLY PART OF THE WHOLE STORY. THE OTHER CHIEF DIFFERENCE IS, THAT OCCULTISTS CONSIDER PASSIVE MEDIUMSHIP AS OFTEN DANGEROUS, AND NOT VERY RELIABLE, AND PREFER A DEFINITE AND SYSTEMATIC TRAINING IN CLAIRVOYANCE. BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP IT HAS SEEMED BEST TO GIVE SOME NOTION OF THE GENERAL OCCULT BACKGROUND, AS WELL AS OF SPIRITISTIC IDEAS.

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SUPPOSE YOU ARE SITTING QUIETLY IN YOUR CHAIR, THINKING (LET US SAY) ABOUT THE NEXT ROOM, ITS FURNISHINGS AND APPEARANCE, OR SOME PARTICULAR OBJECT IN IT, AND VISUALIZING IT RATHER STRONGLY. THAT MEANS THAT PART OF YOUR ATTENTION IS "THERE". SUPPOSE YOU COULD THINK MORE AND MORE INTENTLY AND VISUALIZE MORE VIVIDLY, UNTIL ALL YOUR ATTENTION IS THERE, IN THE NEXT ROOM. IN THAT CASE THE INTERESTING QUESTION ARISES, WHERE ARE YOU?

THE PARTIAL TRANSFER OF CONSCIOUSNESS, OR OF ATTENTION OR THE SELF, IS COMMONPLACE EXPERIENCE; IT HAPPENS EVERY TIME YOU ARE "ABSORBED" AND "TAKEN OUT OF YOURSELF" WATCHING A BALL GAME, OR AN IMPENDING ACCIDENT, OR READING A VERY INTERESTING BOOK, OR ARE "CARRIED AWAY" BY MUSIC. THESE COMMON EXPRESSIONS TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MATTER. TO THIS LET US ADD THE FACT, THAT ATTENTION CAN BE TRAINED (IF IT COULD NOT, LEARNING WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE), AND THERE IS ALMOST NO LIMIT TO THE POSSIBLE EXTENT OF SUCH TRAINING.

THESE VERY SIMPLE STATEMENTS, WHEN THOUGHTFULLY CONSIDERED, ARE POWERFUL LOGICAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONTENTION THAT "YOU" CAN EXIST APART FROM YOUR PHYSICAL BODY. THERE REMAINS THE EXPERIMENTAL PROOF, THAT ATTENTION TRAINING CAN BE CARRIED TO THE REQUISITE HEIGHT. THERE IS AN ENORMOUS MASS OF EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS POSSIBLE; AND IN ADDITION, WHO SO DESIRES CAN FIND OUT FOR HIMSELF. THE TECHNIQUES OF SUCH TRAINING ARE GREATLY VARIED, AND MANY OF THEM HAVE BEEN KNOWN AND USED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. IT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO ILLUSTRATE THE PRINCIPLES INVOLVED IN ONE OR TWO OF THESE, BUT WITHOUT ANY ATTEMPT TO GIVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ACTUAL PRACTICE.

THE FIRST STEP, AS A RULE, IS TO OBTAIN COMPLETE RELAXATION, WHICH IS FAR FROM EASY FOR MOST OF US; AT THE SAME TIME ONE MUST MAKE AN EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF WHAT HE WANTS TO DO; E.G., "I AM GOING TO LEAVE MY BODY, IN FULL AND CLEAR CONSCIOUSNESS, AND STAND HERE BESIDE IT, AND THEN RETURN TO MY BODY, AND REMEMBER CLEARLY ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED." THIS IS AMPLE FOR ALL BEGINNING EXPERIMENTS. THEN COMES THE MORE DIFFICULT PART. ONE MUST TRY TO STILL THE MIND, TO STOP THINKING, AND AT THE SAME TIME, OR AS PART OF THIS SAME EFFORT, TO HOLD THE ATTENTION PASSIVELY ON SOME IMAGE OR IDEA OUTSIDE THE BODY — FOR EXAMPLE, A POINT IN SPACE, A STAR, A LIGHT, A SOUND, A SYMBOL. AS SOON AS THE RIGHT STAGE IS REACHED, AND THE MIND IS STILL ENOUGH, THE SUGGESTION GIVEN TO THE SUBCONSCIOUS ACTS LIKE MAGIC AND THE "PROJECTION" OCCURS. A GREAT VARIETY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVICES ARE EMPLOYED IN SUCH ATTEMPTS, AND IN GENERAL EACH PERSON HAS TO FIND THE ONE WHICH IS MOST EFFECTIVE. BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCCESS IS NOT THEORY, BUT EXPERIMENTAL FACT — HOWEVER DIFFICULT IT MAY PROVE IN PRACTICE.

IN ANOTHER PROCEDURE THE EXPERIMENTER, AFTER QUIETING HIS MIND BUILDS UP BEFORE HIM AN IMAGE OF HIS OWN BODY, AS IF SEEN IN A MIRROR, AND THEN IMAGINES HIMSELF IN THIS IMAGE, AND TRIES TO THROW HIS CONSCIOUSNESS INTO IT, AND TO MAKE IT MOVE BY ACTING WITHIN IT. AND THIS, TOO, CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, IN TIME AND BY RIGHT METHODS. THIS PROCESS IS CALLED BY OCCULTISTS "ENTERING THE BODY OF LIGHT"; AND WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THIS MENTAL IMAGE, LIKE ALL MENTAL FORMS, IS AN ACTUAL EXISTENT, SOMETHING FORMED OUT OF ASTRAL MATTER BY THE MIND ENERGY. THE RESULTS OF THIS AND OTHER SIMILAR PROCESSES ARE COMMONLY CALLED ASTRAL PROJECTION; THEY ARE NOT MASTERED BY MANY PEOPLE, PARTLY BECAUSE SO FEW BELIEVE THEY ARE POSSIBLE, AND BECAUSE THEY USUALLY REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF TIME AND EFFORT, AND OFTEN SOME SPECIAL INSTRUCTION. AND YET, EVERYONE HAS HAD THE EXPERIENCE OF ASTRAL TRAVELING FROM TIME TO TIME, INVOLUNTARILY AND DURING SLEEP, AND SOMETIMES WE REMEMBER IT AS A VERY VIVID DREAM.

IF WE GRANT THAT PROJECTION IS POSSIBLE AT ALL (AS IT CERTAINLY IS), THEN THE PERFECTING OF THE PROCESS IS A MATTER OF TRAINING AND PRACTISE. WHEN SKILL IS ACQUIRED THE EXPERIMENTER CAN TRAVEL TO GREAT DISTANCES, AND A WHOLE WORLD OF NEW EXPERIENCE OPENS UP BEFORE HIM. I HAVE MENTIONED THE MATTER HERE, FOR THE REASON THAT A GREAT DEAL OF OUR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASTRAL AND MENTAL PLANES COMES FROM EXPLORATION OF THIS SORT. AS TO "PROOF" THAT SUCH FEATS ARE POSSIBLE, I CAN (ONCE AGAIN) ONLY SUGGEST THAT YOU READ UP ON THE SUBJECT AND (IF YOU HAVE TIME, COURAGE, DESIRE AND PATIENCE ENOUGH) EXPERIMENT FOR YOURSELF. BUT PERHAPS WE CAN SEE, FROM THESE FEW PARAGRAPHS, HOW VERY SIMPLE AND LOGICAL THE BASIC IDEAS REALLY ARE.

THOSE WHO HAVE ACHIEVED THIS FEAT, OF MOVING WITH FULL CONSCIOUSNESS ON THE INVISIBLE PLANES, PROMPTLY LEARN ONE SUPREME LESSON. GOOD WILL, RIGHT MOTIVES, ASPIRATION, MORAL IDEALISM ARE MATTERS OF SELF INTEREST. THEY REPRESENT CONFORMITY WITH EVOLUTIONARY FORCES. THEY ARE ONE'S ONLY PROTECTION, ON THESE HIGHER LEVELS, AGAINST EVIL FORCES. THIS IS A MATTER OF NATURAL LAW, NOT OF RELIGIONISM, AS THE LATTER TERM IS USUALLY UNDERSTOOD. THEY ARE TO THE HUMAN WHAT AIR AND LIGHT AND WATER ARE TO THE PLANT. "MORALITY IS THE INTELLIGENT SELECTION OF FORCES (IDEAS, CONDUCT) FAVORABLE TO OUR EVOLUTION." RIGHT ACTION IS SELF INTEREST, SELF-PROFIT IN THE ONLY TRUE SENSE OF THESE WORDS. IF THIS SINGLE PRINCIPLE WERE ONLY UNDERSTOOD, CLEARLY AND THOROUGHLY, BY THE MASSES OF MANKIND, HOW DIFFERENT WOULD BE THE CONDITION AND LIFE OF HUMANITY!

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THE BEST APPROACH TO SPIRITUALISM AND TO OCCULT SUBJECTS GENERALLY, IN THE OPINION OF THE WRITER, IS THROUGH WELL-SELECTED READING; THE NEWCOMER LEARNS SOMETHING OF THE NATURE OF THE POSSIBLE PHENOMENA AND IS ABLE TO CONSIDER THEM INTELLIGENTLY. THE LITERATURE, AS HAS BEEN SAID, IS VERY EXTENSIVE, BUT IT MAY BE USEFUL TO MAKE A FEW SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

FOR A GENERAL APPROACH, BACKGROUND AND COMPREHENSIVE VIEW OF SPIRITUALISM: HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM, SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE. FOR THE GENERAL VIEW OF OCCULT PHENOMENA: THE STORY OF PSYCHIC SCIENCE, HEREWARD CARRINGTON.

ON THE NATURE OF DEATH AND THE AFTER-LIFE: THE AFTER-DEATH LIFE, BY LIEUT. COL. A. E. POWELL, 91 PP. CLAIRVOYANT RESEARCH AND THE LIFE AFTER DEATH, BY GEOFFREY HODGSON. LIFE AFTER DEATH, BY C. W. LEADBEATER; AND THE ASTRAL PLANE, BY THE SAME AUTHOR. OPEN THE DOOR, BY WILFRED BRANDON, TRANSCRIBED BY EDITH ELLIS.

MATERIALIZATION PHENOMENA. THE "CLASSIC" ON THIS IS THE PHENOMENA OF MATERIALIZATION, BY BARON VON SHRENCK NOTZING, A MUNICH PHYSICIAN, BIOLOGIST AND METAPSYCHOLOGIST. A LARGE BOOK (340 PP); RECORD OF INTENSIVE LABORATORY STUDIES. NOT EASY OR POPULAR READING, BUT CONTAINS MANY PHOTOGRAPHS AND DRAWNINGS. (2) FROM THE UNCONSCIOUS TO THE CONSCIOUS, BY DR. GUSTAVE GELEY, A WELL-KNOWN BIOLOGIST AND METAPSYCHOLOGIST. THIS IS A PSCHO-BIOLOGICAL STUDY, NOT EASY READING; CONTAINS A NUMBER OF INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS OF ECTOPLASMIC FORMS. A MORE POPULAR BOOK IS ON THE EDGE OF THE ETHERIC, BY J. ARTHUR FINDLAY, PREFACE BY SIR WM. BARRETT; 12 YEARS OF PSYCHIC INVESTIGATION BY A SCOTCH BUSINESS MAN. INFORMATIVE AND A GOOD FIRST BOOK IN SPIRITUALISM.

SPIRITUALISM: CONSULT THE "RESEARCHES" OF SIR WM. CROOKES, THE WORKS OF W. J. CRAWFORD, E. GURNEY, F.W.H.MYERS,

FRANK PODMORE; THE SURVIVAL OF MAN, SIR OLIVER LODGE, ALSO "RAYMOND", AND "WHY I BELIEVE"; "THE NEW REVELATION," CONAN DOYLE, AND "THE VITAL MESSAGE"; WORKS OF J. ARTHUR HILL; "THE HIGHER SPIRITUALISM" (ITS PHILOSOPHY AND TEACHINGS IN RELATION TO OTHER PHILOSOPHY AND SCIENCE), BY JOHN C. LEONARD; "THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM", BY DOYLE, MENTIONED ABOVE.

THEOSOPHY: THE SHORT WORKS BY POWELL AND LEADBEATER MENTIONED ABOVE; ALSO BY POWELL, "THE ETHERIC DOUBLE", "THE ASTRAL BODY", "THE MENTAL BODY," "THE CAUSAL BODY AND THE EGO"

MODERN ESOTERIC QABALISM AND ROSICRUCIANISM: "THE MYSTICAL QABALAH", DION FORTUNE; "TREE OF LIFE", ISRAEL REGARDIE, AND "THE MMDDLE PILLAR; SANE OCCULTISM", DION FORTUNE. THE FOREGOING ARE CONCERNED WITH WESTERN OCCULTISM OR WESTERN YOGA. CONCERNING EASTERN YOGA AND HINDU OCCULTISM GENERALLY THERE ARE A GREAT NUMBER OF BOOKS, MANY OF THEM EASILY AVAILABLE IN LIBRARIES.

"THE BETTY BOOK", AND "ACROSS THE UNKNOWN", BY STEWART EDWARD WHITE, ARE RECENT AND IMPORTANT IN THE FIELD OF SPIRITUALISM. CATALOGUES AND LISTS OF OCCULT BOOKS OF ALL KINDS CAN BE HAD FROM DALE NEWS, INC., THEOSOPHICAL PRESS, RIDER & CO. (LON.), OCCULT BOOK SERVICE, CHURCH OF THE LIGHT, THE GATEWAY, ARIES PRESS, MCCOY PUBLISHING CO., AND MANY OTHER SOURCES. ANY PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL FURNISH THE STREET ADDRESSES OF SUCH FIRMS.

(THE AUTHOR WELCOMES INQUIRIES FROM SINCERE STUDENTS OF SPIRITISM AND OCCULTISM, ESPECIALLY FROM THOSE INTERESTED IN ESOTERIC QABALISM. ADDRESS:

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